

## **Columbus State University Employees' Responsibility for Reporting Sexual Violence or Harassment**

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a University is required to take immediate and corrective action if a “responsible employee” knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known about sexual or gender-based harassment that creates a hostile environment. Employees with supervisory and leadership responsibilities on campus are considered “responsible employees.” This includes faculty, coaches, and administrators. A “responsible employee” also includes any employee who:

- Has the authority to take action to redress the harassment;
- Has the duty to report to appropriate school officials sexual harassment or any other misconduct by students or employees; or
- A student could reasonably believe has the authority or responsibility to take action.

The University requires that all “responsible employees” share a report of misconduct with one of the following:

- **Title IX Coordinator, Lauren Jones McKown, JD, 706-507-8757**
- **Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Aaron “Chip” Reese, 706-507-8652**
- **Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Shanita Pettaway, J.D. Ph.D. 706-507-8904**
- <https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ColumbusStateUniv>

The Title IX team, under the guidance of the Title IX Coordinator, will conduct an initial assessment of the conduct, the Complainant’s expressed preferences, if any, as to course of action, and the necessity for any interim remedies or accommodations to protect the safety of the Complainant or the community.

All Columbus State University community members, even those who are not obligated to do so by this policy, are strongly encouraged to report information regarding any incident of sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, or intimate partner violence directly to the Title IX Coordinator. The University cannot take appropriate action unless an incident is reported.

For additional information on how to assist a student who reports an incident of sexual violence, University employees should refer to Sexual Assault and Violence Education website resource: <http://sa.columbusstate.edu/dos/save.php>.

Under VAWA, the victim has the right to decide if they want police involvement in their matter. In the event of an emergency, always contact the police.

- University Police Department (UPD): 706-507-8911