Dear Campus Colleagues,

For several years, our presidents have proclaimed April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. I am proud our university has adopted important guidelines focused on preventing sexual violence; promoting a campus culture of safety and respect; building bystander intervention skills; encouraging healthy relationships; and supporting victims of sexual violence.

Citizenship and collegiality are among USC Aiken’s core values. We respect the dignity and worth of all persons and support federal and state civil rights laws including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

USC Aiken is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, inclusion, and mutual respect in an environment free of sexual violence or discrimination. This includes sex discrimination or assault in all its forms, which constitutes a violation of our policies. Sexual assault is a serious offense, and it will not be tolerated. Everyone on campus shares in the individual responsibility and obligation to ensure our campus community is free from any form of assault or illegal discrimination.

In support of these efforts, it is important to note that faculty and staff are required by the federal government and by university policy to report any information they receive about possible sexual assaults or sexual violence to one of USC Aiken’s Title IX Coordinators. I am proud that our student-athletes joined the NCAA It’s On Us movement to raise awareness of bystander obligations. Take a look: http://www.usca.edu/itsonus.

The University’s Title IX coordinators’ names and contact information are shared below, along with helpful links. Of particular importance is the link, What to Do if Someone Reports Sexual Assault or Harassment to You, which is a checklist of steps you should follow in these situations. In addition, USC Aiken has adopted the following guidelines for Title IX Training.

1. All new employees need to attend Title IX Training following their hire. New employees who were unable to attend the recent Title IX training are required to complete the online training at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogdPbhcJJRs. Once you complete the training, please fill out a quick form verifying your completion at http://www.usca.edu/intranet/facultystaff/title-ix-training.dot.

2. All continuing faculty and staff will complete Title IX Training every two years. Since baseline training was provided to faculty and staff in fall of 2015, the next round of training will take place this fall.

3. Select departments, those who have intensive Title IX support roles, will complete Title IX Training every year, based on the recommendation of their senior administrator.
I appreciate your support and full compliance with university policies and procedures as we continue to ensure an educational environment that is free of any and all discrimination.

Sincerely,

Sandra Jordan
Chancellor

Resources:

What to Do If Someone Reports Sexual Assault or Harassment to You
http://www.usca.edu/policy/policy-index/student-affairs/astaf-105.dot

Harassment and Discrimination Prevention
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance. USC Aiken does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and in other activities operated by the University and is required by Title IX, and specifically 34 C.F.R. Part 106.9, not to discriminate in such a manner. This extends to employees of and applicants for employment or admission to the University. Sexual harassment, which includes sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence, is a form of sexual discrimination.

USC Aiken Title IX Coordinators:

- Ms. Maria Chandler serves as the Title IX Coordinator for USC Aiken. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the university’s compliance with Title IX, including overseeing all complaints of sex discrimination and identifying and addressing any problems that arise during the review of such complaints.

  Ms. Chandler’s office is Penland Administration, Room 116A, mariac@usca.edu, 803-641-3317.

- Dr. Deb Kladivko has been designated as the Title IX Coordinator for Students. Dr. Kladivko is also the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services.

  Dr. Kladivko’s office is Student Activities Center, (SAC), Room 2A, debk@usca.edu, 803-641-3577.

U.S. Department of Education Title IX Information
https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/tix_dis.html

Equal Opportunity Programs
http://www.sc.edu/eop/policies.shtml

USC Aiken Sexual Assault Policy
http://www.usca.edu/policy/policy-index/student-affairs/astaf-105.dot