

Joint Declaration on Combating Campus Sexual Violence

WHEREAS, a growing national dialogue is focused on campus sexual violence and the efforts of colleges and universities to combat this problem; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, students who are in their freshman or sophomore years are most at risk of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of all students enrolled in Virginia's colleges and universities is essential to the happiness and prosperity of the Commonwealth and our communities; and

WHEREAS, all students, faculty, and staff should be able to learn, work, and live in a safe environment free from sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's colleges and universities are committed to the well-being and safety of all their students, and as part of that commitment, work to prevent the occurrence of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, when an incident is reported, colleges and universities have a responsibility to comply with all legal requirements for prompt investigation and fair and equitable resolution; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's colleges and universities currently provide both mandatory and voluntary programs to raise awareness of campus sexual violence and its prevention; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's colleges and universities offer resources to those adversely affected by campus sexual violence, including close coordination with victim advocacy and crisis response organizations, counseling services, referral for medical care, and interim measures designed to address living and educational environments; and

WHEREAS, joint action by the Governor, Attorney General, and Virginia's colleges and universities will enable us to identify best practices, to collaborate on prevention and awareness campaigns, and to highlight the critical problem of campus sexual violence to our students, their parents, and Virginia's citizens.

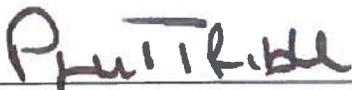
NOW, THEREFORE, WE DO HEREBY JOINTLY DECLARE our intention to aggressively combat campus sexual violence including our commitment to:

- Vigorously enforce policies and procedures governing sexual violence to encourage reporting and to promote the prompt, fair, and equitable investigation and resolution of reports of sexual violence.
- Work in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General to conduct a top-to-bottom review of policies governing non-discrimination and sexual misconduct, and associated procedures for the investigation and resolution of complaints, and revise such policies and procedures, if needed, to meet all legal requirements.
- Fully participate in the Governor and Attorney General's Joint Task Force on Campus Sexual Violence in identifying best practices for the prevention, investigation, and resolution of reports of sexual violence;
- Reinforce existing relationships and form new relationships between our institutions, campus police, local law enforcement, commonwealth's attorneys, crisis response centers, and victim advocacy organizations, to include our participation in the development of a model memorandum of understanding that will delineate respective responsibilities between colleges and universities and local law enforcement for investigations, sharing of information, and training;
- Continue to encourage the reporting of sexual violence to appropriate law enforcement agencies and to appropriate college and university administrators;
- Ensure that our colleges and universities provide sufficient training to our students, faculty, and staff on sexual violence prevention and awareness, with specific attention to bystander intervention programs and mandatory sessions for incoming residential students; and
- Fully involve our Title IX Coordinators and other appropriate campus administrators in regional summits to be sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General.

SIGNATORIES

Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Mark R. Herring, Attorney General



Paul S. Tribble, Jr., President
Christopher Newport University



W. Taylor Reveley, III, President
College of William and Mary



Ángel Cabrera, President
George Mason University



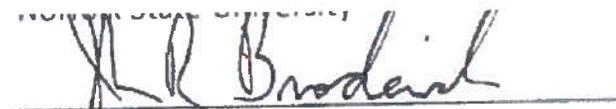
Jonathan R. Alger, President
James Madison University



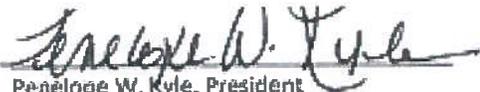
W. Taylor Reveley, W., President
Longwood University



Eddie N. Moore, Jr., Interim President
Norfolk State University



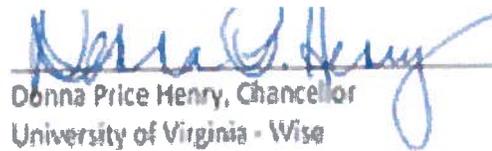
John Broderick, President
Old Dominion University


Penelope W. Kyle, President
Radford University


Debbie L. Sydow, President
Richard Bland College

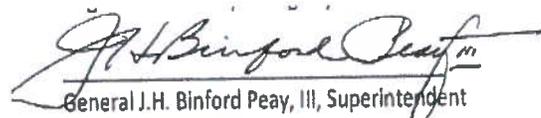

Richard V. Hurley, President
University of Mary Washington


Teresa A. Sullivan, President
University of Virginia

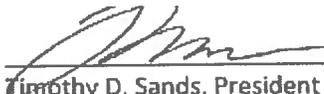

Donna Price Henry, Chancellor
University of Virginia - Wise


Michael Rao, President
Virginia Commonwealth University


Glenn DuBois, Chancellor
Virginia Community College System


General J.H. Binford Peay, III, Superintendent
Virginia Military Institute


Keith T. Miller, President
Virginia State University



Timothy D. Sands, President
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University