Thursday, September 4, 2014

Dear Parents and Family Members:

As you may be aware from media coverage, four students recently filed Title IX complaints against their universities, and UT was one of the schools named.

I know how important your student’s safety is to you. That’s why I wanted to communicate with you immediately on this development.

The University of Toledo cannot speak publicly on any details surrounding the complaint. However, I can share with you the ways that UT can and does speak and act daily on the subject of sexual assault.

To help ensure your student’s safety while a member of the UT community, we have strong campus resources in place:

• A Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program (headed by a licensed social worker) that uses continuous student outreach to educate and create a campus community that’s free of all forms of assault and abuse;

• Services for survivors that include Sexual Assault Advocates — UT staff members who are specially trained to help a survivor navigate the complex medical, legal, academic and personal issues that follow an assault;

• Licensed and certified counselors at the UT Counseling Center who are experienced at providing education and support that’s sensitive yet down-to-earth;

• A model of regular collaboration between Student Affairs, the UT Police Department, Residence Life, the Dean of Students and the Counseling Center. This is rare among universities; likewise, few area institutions provide full-time staff for sexual assault education and prevention, as UT does.

• The UT Office of University Inclusion works with survivors to provide immediate assistance such as changing course, residence hall or other needs. They also oversee UT’s Title IX compliance efforts to ensure that our policies and procedures incorporate the best practices of state and federal agencies as well as universities across the country.

• Community partnerships with the YWCA H.O.P.E. Center and the Toledo Police Department for times when survivors make their initial contact outside UT.

These resources are well publicized and available to all students. While our goal is to use education and outreach to prevent instances of sexual assault or abuse before they happen, we are also there to support survivors in every way possible.

It’s the hope of every member of the University community that our students tap into these resources whenever they need advice, information or support. Our commitment to sexual assault education and prevention is unwavering, and our programs and services are constantly reviewed and updated to remain effective.

I hope that you will join with us in reminding your own student about how we can help create a campus that’s safe for all our community members. Thank you for being part of that community.

Sincerely,

Nagi G. Naganathan, PhD, ASME Fellow
Professor and Interim President