



NEW JERSEY

# Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**QuickTakes!**

## **Update on Campus Sexual Assault Legislation**

December 29, 2015

In collaboration with the independent and public research institutions, NJASCU succeeded in having the Senate Higher Education Committee hold Senate Bill No. 2478, which would require institutions of higher education to adopt an affirmative consent standard (“yes means yes”) regarding sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.

On December 2, the governor signed Assembly Bill No. 4156, which establishes the Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault. The law provides the state colleges and universities with a representative on the task force, and we have forwarded the names of several nominees to the governor’s Appointment Office.

The Task Force is charged with producing a comprehensive assessment of the issue of sexual assault on college campuses and issuing recommendations and guidelines for most effectively ensuring the safety and security of all students. Among its responsibilities, the task force is to review and evaluate the following: already existing campus policies and procedures; current New Jersey and federal laws; national best practices; professional standards; testimony from sexual assault survivors and their advocates who provide support to campus sexual assault survivors.

NJASCU members and other higher education institutions advocated that such a vehicle is an important strategy in achieving the best policies, procedures and practices to ensure student safety within New Jersey’s higher education community. The landscape of sexual assault regulations and proposals is vast, and a cohesive and focused analysis is necessary.

The Task Force will comprise 12 members, including representatives from all sectors of higher education in New Jersey, *e.g.*, New Jersey’s state colleges and universities (NJASCU members), public research universities, county colleges, and independent (private) colleges and universities. The other members of the task force will be: the Secretary of Higher Education; the Attorney General, the Director of the Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families, a representative of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and four members of the public with demonstrated expertise or interest in issues related to the work of the Task Force, including at least one individual who is a campus sexual assault survivor.

NJASCU

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