

Climate Considerations

20 Minutes to... *Trained*

YOUR FACULTY

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WHAT DOES CLIMATE MEAN?

- Climate refers to the norms, perceptions, beliefs, and experiences of individuals and groups within your education program and activity
 - Conceptually speaking, climate looks at:
 - the history of the institution/school
 - evolution of practices
 - capacity to support diversity and inclusion of historically underrepresented groups, and
 - behavioral climate



CLIMATE SURVEYS

- Climate surveys are a helpful climate assessment
 - Provides a snapshot of a moment in time
 - Must be recurring
- Assessment yields data to analyze, which leads to developing evidence-based action plans
- Can yield data to quantify the community's experience with discrimination and harassment
- Survey groups who can provide the information you seek
 - Be transparent about survey, use of data, etc.
- Increasing number of standardized tools available
 - Challenges with capturing institutional nuances

CLIMATE SURVEYS (CONT.)

- K-12 specific concerns
 - Community colleges or dual enrollment as well
 - Surveying minors (and parents)
- Break the survey process into small parts
- Narrow focus
- Limit length of survey
- Get quantitative and qualitative data
- Demographic information
- Make it understandable to your audience

CLIMATE SURVEYS (CONT.)

- Implementation
 - Response rate
 - Target group(s)
 - Incentives
- Analysis
 - Communicate back to target population
- Partner with resources within district or institution to assist with research, design, and analysis

BARRIER ANALYSIS

- Barrier: any policy or practice that limits opportunities for participation or employment in a recipient's education program or activity or reporting discrimination
 - Institutional
 - Attitudinal/Belief
 - Physical
- Investigate to pinpoint actual barriers and causes
 - Sources of information: complaints, climate surveys, focus groups, exit interviews, unions
- Devise plan to eliminate barriers, implement plan
- Assess success, make adjustments as needed

REPORTING

- Reporting policies can influence your climate and provide information about climate
 - Influencing climate
 - Do your reporting policies encourage a culture of support for reporting?
 - Or do they chill reporting by discouraging reporting or failing to address retaliation?
 - Reports can provide information helpful to assessing culture and pain points
 - Bias incidents, Title IX incidents, hate crimes
- Intake, materials, and website inclusivity

PATTERNS

- Surveys, barrier analyses, and reporting can help institutions identify patterns
 - Patterned targeting of individuals or groups of individuals
 - Protected characteristics like sex, gender, race, national origin, and religion
 - Patterned targeting by certain individuals or groups of individuals
 - Athletic teams, student organizations
 - Common locations
 - Other problem areas
- When you have data, you can take action

QUESTIONS?

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