Trainer Biography: Laura Bennett

Laura Bennett is currently the Title IX Coordinator at Nova Southeastern University, a comprehensive private research university with regional campuses across Florida and Puerto Rico, a collaborative research center, and a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade college preparatory school. Laura has over 15 years of experience working with behavioral issues in higher education.

From 2011-2016, Laura worked at William Rainey Harper College, a comprehensive community college located in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago, IL. There she chaired the campus threat assessment team, served as the Title IX Coordinator, and operated a single-person student conduct office. She wrote the college’s threat assessment procedural manual, revised the Student Code of Conduct, drafted the campus Sexual Misconduct Policy, and implemented a civil rights model of investigating complaints of sexual misconduct.

Laura has been active in advocating for the needs and unique challenges of community colleges. She has authored several articles on threat assessment for Wiley Publications and co-authored “Threat Assessment and Targeted Violence at Institutions of Higher Education: Implications for Policy and Practice Including Unique Considerations for Community Colleges,” published in the EJournal of Education Policy. She co-authored ASCA’s “Community Colleges and Sexual Misconduct: Unique Challenges and Opportunities” and “Student Conduct Administration & Title IX: Gold Standard Practices for Resolving Allegations of Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses.” She has also given feedback on federal and state legislation to ensure the needs of community colleges are adequately considered.

Laura served as the first ASCA Director of Community Colleges from 2012-2014 and has been an invited faculty member for the ASCA Donald D. Gehring Academy and Title IX & Sexual Misconduct Training Institute for her experience in the community college setting. She participated in dialogues with the Office on Violence Against Women, the Office for Civil Rights, the White House Advisors on Violence Against Women, Counsel to the Vice President of the United States, members of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, and others. Her recent conference presentations have focused on the intersection of risk assessments in cases of stalking and dating/domestic violence.

Prior to her role at commuter campuses, Laura worked in student conduct administration at the University of California, Berkeley, and in residential life and housing at Colorado College. Laura has a Master of Education degree in College Student Services Administration from Oregon State University and a Bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Kansas. She is a frequent speaker, presenter, and author on student conduct, Title IX compliance, campus threat assessment, and campus safety. Laura is a Past President of the Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) and has held a variety of leadership roles in the Association. She is also a member of the Association for Title IX Administrators (ATIXA) as well as the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP).

*While these professional roles have contributed to Laura’s experience and knowledge, her work as a trainer does not represent any of the institutions or organizations named above.*