



# Georgia Institute of Technology

Office of the President

## Memorandum

January 5, 2015

To: Cabinet, Deans, Senior Leaders

From: G. P., "Bud" Peterson, President

Re: Campus Wellness Initiative

Colleagues,

As we begin the spring semester, I am pleased to announce the establishment of a campuswide wellness initiative that will both optimize the utilization of resources and allow us to better serve the entire campus community.

The initiative is an effort to explore alignment opportunities for wellness, mental health, alcohol and drug education, and sexual violence prevention. This past fall the Mental Health Task Force and the Sexual Violence Task Force presented thoughtful and detailed analyses of the existing programs, services, and resources currently devoted to these areas along with a series of individual recommendations. Their analyses and recommendations served as the foundation for a comprehensive internal review of how to best serve the campus community.

As a result of this effort, we are taking a concerted Institute-wide approach to creating a safer and healthier campus, one focused on the overall health and well-being of our entire campus community. The first step in this initiative is to bring together select resources to create a "Center for Community Health and Well-being" under the leadership of a newly created director's position. Following a national search, this new director will be charged with leading stakeholders throughout the campus to maximize the impact and effectiveness of this initiative. The director will have responsibility for the Campus Recreation Center, Health Services, and Health Promotion. Health Promotion is expected to include four focus areas: Prevention Communications, Prevention Information and Policy, Prevention Training and Development, and Strategic Programs. Strategic Programs will include sexual violence prevention, alcohol and drug prevention, and mental health, as well as other focus areas to address Institute-wide priority issues.

The Community Health and Well-being director will report directly to Mr. Paul Strouts, vice president for Campus Services. Once on board, he or she will help define the new organization, aligning people, programs, and funding.

To help you in communicating with your teams, we are providing a set of leadership talking points on both the wellness and sexual assault/violence prevention initiatives.

I would like to thank the members of both the Mental Health and the Sexual Violence task forces for their work over the past year. Their comprehensive and thoughtful review

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provided a solid basis upon which we can more effectively foster a safer and healthier environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. While we already have many strong and effective programs throughout the campus that currently serve as valuable resources, these changes and this new initiative will allow us to maximize resources to provide more comprehensive programs that will facilitate the well-being of the entire campus community.

As always, I greatly appreciate your continued support and partnership, and in particular that of the many individuals who have already helped and will continue to help develop this path forward. Thank you all for your contributions to this critically important initiative and your continued support.

Cc: Paul Strouts  
Sexual Violence Task Force members  
Mental Health Task Force members  
Rob Connolly