Sauk Valley Community College has adopted Title IX policy, in accordance with federal guidelines. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in the College’s programs and activities. The College will respond to complaints or reports about prohibited conduct with measures designed to stop the behavior, eliminate any such gender discrimination, prevent the recurrence of the prohibited conduct, and remediate any adverse effects of such conduct on campus or in College-related programs or activities. The College does not tolerate sex or gender discrimination, including sexual misconduct such as sexual harassment and sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence. These behaviors are harmful to the well-being of our community members, the learning/working environment, and collegial relationships among our students, faculty, and staff. All forms of prohibited conduct under this policy are regarded as serious College offenses, and violations will result in discipline, including the possibility of separation from the College. State and federal laws also address conduct that may meet the College’s definitions of prohibited conduct, and criminal prosecution may take place independently of any disciplinary action instituted by the College. The College has an obligation to make reasonable efforts to investigate and address complaints or reports of sex or gender discrimination, including sexual misconduct, whenever it becomes aware of such a complaint or report. Once made aware, the College must conduct an investigation regardless of how the information was brought to the College’s attention or the extent to which the complainant (i.e., an individual who has been subjected to prohibited conduct, according to the complaint or report) wishes to participate or be involved. Once an employee has learned that such an offense has occurred, he or she shall report it, via the responsible reporter form, which is then routed to the designated Title IX coordinator. All individuals and victims have access to Confidential Resources that they may use for support and guidance without initiating College action.
The College will provide training for all employees to help ensure that they understand what types of conduct constitute sexual harassment or violence, can identify warning signals that may need attention, and know how to properly respond.

B. The Role of the Title IX Coordinator

The Title IX Coordinator will be informed of all complaints or reports of violations of this policy and oversees the College’s centralized response to ensure compliance with Title IX and the 2013 Amendments to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Title IX Coordinator’s activities include (but are not limited to):

1. Communicating with all members of the College community regarding Title IX and VAWA, and providing information about how individuals may access their rights;

2. Reviewing applicable College policies to ensure institutional compliance with Title IX and VAWA;

3. Monitoring the College’s administration of its own applicable policies, including record keeping, timeframes, and other procedural requirements;

4. Conducting training regarding Title IX, VAWA, and prohibited conduct defined in this policy; and

5. Responding to any complaint or report regarding conduct that violates this policy. In this capacity, the Title IX Coordinator oversees the investigation and resolution of such alleged misconduct, directs the provision of any remedial measures, and monitors the administration of any related appeal.

C. Education and Awareness for Students on the prevention of Sexual Crimes

The administration shall, from time to time, but at least annually, obtain information from appropriate law enforcement and social service agencies regarding effective methods for the prevention of sexual offenses and shall plan and implement such methods as may be reasonably accomplished by the College. Such activities will be directed and intended to reach all of the student population.
D. Counseling for Victims of Sexual Assault
The administration, pursuant to Title IX, shall provide information and identified confidential resource personnel. Counseling, mental health, or student services are available for victims of sexual assault, both on campus and in the Sauk Valley Community College area.

E. Disciplinary Action
In the event of College disciplinary action for alleged sexual assault, a student alleged to be involved in a sexual assault shall be subject to campus discipline under and in accordance with student disciplinary policies. At any student disciplinary proceeding involving sexual assault,
1. The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present;
2. Both the accuser and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of any proceeding brought involving sexual assault; and
3. Per the student code of conduct, student discipline may include immediate expulsion from school, suspension, or reprimand, depending upon the conduct involved.

9/28/15