

# Designing, Developing and Deploying a Healthy Work and Learning Environment

Sandra L. Davis, PhD, DPM ACNP-BC  
Sydnae Law, MHA

## The Charge

- Identify the current GWSON issues/problems identified in the climate survey reported 1/31/18 at the all school diversity retreat.
- Create strategies and interventions to address the concerns/problem identified in the GWSON climate survey.
- Include the faculty and staff members as needed in creating solutions to the environment issues to create a sense of collegiality and ownership across the environment and stakeholders at GWSON.
- Explore best practices and the evidence on ways to promote a healthy work and learning environment to promote collegiality, trust, respect, value, and accountability.
- Develop recommendations to the Dean to address the concerns/problems found in the climate survey and to promote a healthy work and learning environment.

## Academic Workplace Standards

- **Skilled Communication:** Faculty and staff are proficient in using and role modeling communication skills as they are in their respective academic duties and skills.
- **True Collaboration:** Faculty and staff are relentless in pursuing, fostering and role modeling collaboration within and beyond the university.
- **Effective Decision-Making:** Faculty and staff are valued and committed partners in implementing shared governance within the school and university setting.
- **Appropriate Staffing:** Faculty and staff ensure the effective match between the mission of the school and designated employee competencies.
- **Meaningful Recognition:** Faculty and staff are recognized and recognize others for the value each brings to the work of the organization.
- **Authentic Leadership:** Faculty and staff leaders fully embrace the imperative of a healthy work environment, authentically live it, and engage others in its achievement.
- **Self Care:** Faculty and staff engage and are supported in developing self-care as foundational to the creation of a healthy work and learning environment in which all members of the academic community can thrive.

## Respect/Collegiality

Recommendations	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultivate a sense of inclusion, belonging, and value of differences to promote respectful communication, collegiality, and a positive work and learning environment for administrators, faculty, staff, and students.</li> </ul> <p><b>AACN Standard: True Collaboration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer continuous educational opportunities related to healthy work and learning environments.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the University Culture Leadership Team, established by President LeBlanc.</li> <li>• Conduct a SON culture survey annually to analyze data and set metrics that sustain respect for the following year.</li> <li>• Draft a culture pledge, to be signed by SON faculty and staff, reminding everyone of the commitment to meet the behavioral standard.</li> </ul>

## Meaningful Recognition

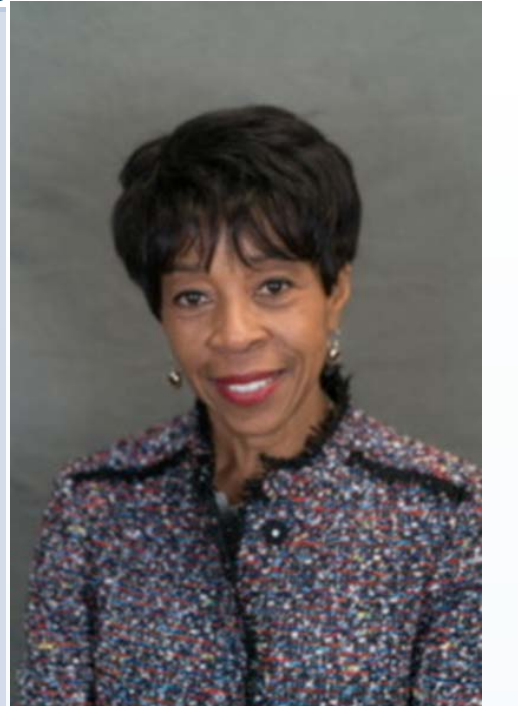
Recommendations	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a communication vehicle whereby all distinguished activities are included for staff, faculty and students.</li> <li>• Increase the cultural frequency in which colleagues personal and/or professional accomplishments are formally (or publically) recognized.</li> </ul> <p><b>AACN Standard: Meaningful Recognition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to build upon current methods of recognition.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Office of Marketing and Communications for increased opportunities to “spotlight” staff accomplishments such as educational pursuits, conferences and publications.</li> </ul>

## Trust, Transparency, Follow Through & Follow Up

Recommendations	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster transparency and responsiveness to build trust and rapport by including faculty and staff in decision-making process, ensuring timely communication and including the impetus for decisions that are made.</li> <li>• Provide follow up support for employees who are dealing with challenging workplace situations.</li> </ul> <p><b>AACN Standard: Skilled Communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandate internally publishing existing resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <a href="https://hr.gwu.edu/grievance-process">https://hr.gwu.edu/grievance-process</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="https://hr.gwu.edu/performance-counseling">https://hr.gwu.edu/performance-counseling</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="https://studentconduct.gwu.edu/civility-community-standards">https://studentconduct.gwu.edu/civility-community-standards</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Strengths

- Achiever
- Strategic
- Connectedness
- Relator
- Individualization



- Restorative
- Responsibility
- Futuristic
- Positivity
- Developer

## Conclusion

- Faculty and staff may differ in their needs, approaches and expectations for instituting recommendations and policies related to workplace behaviors
- To establish a universal lens of acceptable behavioral standards, discussions must be inclusive of different experiences and environments
- Leading the charge requires creating a safe environment where individuals feel safe to speak truthfully and openly about issue

## References

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- Harmon, R.B., DeGennaro, R., Norling, M., Kennedy, C., & Fontaine, D.K. (2018). Implementing healthy work environment standards in an academic workplace: An update. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 34, 20-24.
- National League for Nursing Healthful Work Environment Toolkit (2018). Retrieved from: <http://www.nln.org/docs/default-source/professional-development-programs/healthful-work-environment-toolkit.pdf?sfvrsn=20>