

## The CSU Information Security program..... A Message for Our Faculty

The CSU is enhancing its information security program by developing a set of system-wide information security policies and supports standards. Last fall, the CSU contracted with a consulting firm, CH2M Hill, to assist in the development of a system-wide responsible use policy, information security policy and supporting standards. The policies and standards will provide direction and support to campuses in their efforts to protect CSU information assets and provide privacy protection to individuals in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and university requirements. The policies and standards will help promote and encourage appropriate use of information assets. Campuses may supplement, but not supersede, the system-wide policies and standards by developing additional campus policies and standards.

***The system-wide policies and standards are not intended to prevent, prohibit, or inhibit the sanctioned use of CSU information assets as required to meet the University's core mission.***

### Topics Covered by the Policies and Standards

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing Information Security</li> <li>• Information Security Risk Management</li> <li>• Privacy</li> <li>• Personnel Security</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change Control</li> <li>• Access Control</li> <li>• Information Asset Management</li> <li>• Information System Acquisition, Development and Maintenance</li> <li>• Information Security Incident Management</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security Awareness and Training</li> <li>• Managing Third Party Service Providers</li> <li>• Information Technology Security</li> <li>• Configuration Management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Security</li> <li>• Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery</li> <li>• Compliance</li> </ul>  |

The project team and campuses have been working together to balance the CSU goals of open access to information with a requirement to use appropriate safeguards in the protection of sensitive, confidential, or critical information assets. Campuses, and other stakeholders, have been actively involved in helping to achieve this balance. Many individuals have participated in discussion and reviews of the working drafts created by the consulting firm.

This fall, we launch a new review cycle. The CIOs, ISOs, and academic senate chairs of each campus were given draft copies of the system-wide responsible use policy, system-wide information security policy and supporting standards.

Each of these individuals will work with your campus community to review the drafts and collect comments. The CIOs have been designated the primary liaison between your campus and the project team. At the conclusion of your review cycle, the CIO will compile your campus comments and submit them to the project team. The project team will review all campus comments. Where appropriate, recommendations from the campus communities will be used to update the documents.

## Common Questions about the Project

- **How will this affect the CSU Mission?** The CSU remains committed to supporting the teaching and learning experiences found at the University. The policies and standards will help support and promote a secure academic environment by establishing standards for protecting our technology infrastructure, providing guidance on appropriate use of information assets, and appropriately respecting an individual privacy.
- **Who will decide what needs to be protected?** Using guidance from applicable laws and regulations, data owners will be asked to identify their data to be protected and those using the data will be asked to safeguard confidential, sensitive or critical information assets according to CSU policies. The Golden Rule of Security – Treat others data as you would have them treat yours.
- **How will this impact my daily activities?** You will still have access to the information you need to do you work and conduct research. However, you may be asked to use additional safeguards to help protect confidential/sensitive data and other CSU information assets.
- **How will this affect my personal mobile device?** Any assets interacting with CSU systems or containing CSU protected data will have to meet some minimum security standards.
- **All of my work is funded by a federal grant so this does not apply to me – right?** The security policies apply to everyone using CSU information assets. Under most grants, you are required to meet certain security requirements. Since the CSU policies were created from multiple laws, regulations and best practices, you will likely find the system-wide policies will you meet the security requirements required by a federal grant.
- **How will this change my responsibilities to my students?** You will be asked to protect their sensitive information according to CSU policy. Additionally, the system-wide policies and standards can be viewed as a teachable opportunity for healthy discussions about information security and privacy protection.
- **How can I help?** Like all CSU policies, we need your support to ensure proper implementation of the policy. With your support, we can create a secure working environment for all and avoid the potential exposure of private information.
- **How do I learn more about the project?** Contact your CIO or ISO. You may also contact Cheryl Washington, Interim Senior Director System-wide Information Security Management, in the Chancellor’s Office, 562-951-4190 or [cwashington@calstate.edu](mailto:cwashington@calstate.edu).