In order to ensure that College students and employees are provided healthy education and work environments, Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) is determined to provide a campus atmosphere free of violence for all members of the campus community. For this reason, WATC does not tolerate stalking and will pursue the perpetrators of such acts to the fullest extent possible. WATC is also committed to supporting victims of stalking through the appropriate provision of safety and support services. This policy applies equally to all members of WATC’s community: students, faculty, staff, contract employees, volunteers, and campus visitors.

Stalking incidents are occurring at an alarming rate on the nation’s college campuses. It is a crime that happens to men and women of all races/ethnicities, religions, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, and sexual identity. It is a crime that can affect every aspect of a victim’s life. Stalking often begins with phone calls, emails, social networking posts and/or letters and can sometimes escalate to violence.

Stalking is a crime in Kansas and is subject to criminal prosecution. Students perpetrating such acts of violence will be subject to disciplinary action through WATC’s Office of Student Services. This can include expulsion from WATC and/or criminal prosecution simultaneously.

**Definition of Stalking**

**Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Course of conduct** is defined as “a pattern of actions composed of more than one act over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of conduct.”

**Stalking Behaviors**

Stalking includes any behaviors or activities occurring on more than one occasion that collectively instill fear in a victim, and/or threaten her or his safety, mental health, or physical health. Such behaviors and activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Non-consensual communication, including face-to-face communication, telephone calls, voice messages, e-mails, text messages, written letters, gifts, or any other communications that are undesired and place another person in fear.
- Use of online, electronic, or digital technologies, including:
  - Posting of pictures or information in chat rooms or on Web sites
  - Sending unwanted/unsolicited email or talk requests
Posting private or public messages on Internet sites, social networking sites, and/or school bulletin boards

Installing spyware on a victim’s computer

Using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to monitor a victim

- Pursuing, following, waiting, or showing up uninvited at or near a residence, workplace, classroom, or other places frequented by the victim
- Surveillance or other types of observation including staring, “peeping”
- Trespassing
- Vandalism
- Non-consensual touching
- Direct verbal or physical threats
- Gathering information about an individual from friends, family, and/or co-workers
- Threats to harm self or others
- Defamation – lying to others about the victim

### Reporting Stalking

WATC encourage reporting of stalking incidents to law enforcement authorities. The College respects that whether or not to report to the police is a decision that the victim needs to make. Advocates are available to inform victims of the reporting procedures and offer appropriate referrals. Victims of stalking choosing to pursue the reporting process have the right to assistance or consultation of an advocate. WATC offers services to victims even if they choose not to report the incidents. The Vice President of Student Services provides referrals, advocacy, and information for victims in a safe, supportive, and confidential setting. In some circumstances, a victim may wish to seek an order of protection from a court of appropriate jurisdiction against the alleged perpetrator. Victims may also seek restriction of access to the College by non-students or non-employees in certain circumstances.

### Reporting Options:

- Filing a criminal report with law enforcement authorities
- Filing a college complaint or complaint of Student Code of Conduct violations
- Filing a confidential or anonymous report
- Filing a third-party report

In certain instances, WATC may need to report an incident to law enforcement authorities. Such circumstances include any incidents that warrant the undertaking of additional safety and security measures for the protection of the victim and the campus community or other situations in which there is clear and imminent danger, and when a weapon may be involved. However, it is crucial in these circumstances to consult with supervisory staff and/or Safety and Security, since reporting may compromise the safety of the victim. Personal safety concerns are often very important for stalking victims. Crisis intervention and victim safety concerns will take precedence.

### Safety for Victims of Stalking

WATC is committed to supporting victims of stalking by providing the necessary safety and support services. Student victims of stalking are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Due to the complex nature of this problem, the student victim may need additional assistance in obtaining one or more of the following areas:

- No-contact order
- Services of a student victim advocate
- Witness impact statement
- Change in an academic schedule
- The imposition of an interim suspension on the accused
- The provision of resources for medical and/or psychological support

For assistance obtaining these safety accommodations, please contact the Vice President of Student Services. If safety is an immediate concern, encourage the victim to contact law enforcement or the WATC Safety and Security Department for assistance.

**Stalking Victim Rights**

Students on our campus have the right to live free of behaviors that interfere with students attaining their educational goals. Students who report stalking have the right to:

- Treatment with dignity and respect, not subjected to biased attitudes or judgments
- Not having past and irrelevant conduct discussed during any resulting proceedings
- Changes in academic programming, if deemed appropriate by WATC Administration
- All support services regardless of the choice to file a school or criminal complaint
- Submission of a written account of the incident and a victim-impact statement
- Having a person of choice, including legal counsel or an advocate, present throughout the proceedings
- Having one’s identity protected, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or other legal requirements
- Victims can request immediate transfer of classes, subject to Administration’s approval and availability, or other steps to prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity to an alleged assailant. The College will make reasonable efforts to accommodate such requests.

**Rights of Accused**

Students accused of stalking behaviors have rights on this campus. Those include:

- The right to know the nature and source of the evidence used in the hearing process
- The right to present witnesses and material evidence relevant to the case
- The right to an advocate or attorney to aid in the preparation and presentation of the case
- Access to services from the counseling or other student service group
- Consultation with a campus official on academic support services and referrals to community resources when appropriate.

**Disciplinary Process**

Disciplinary sanctions for violations of this stalking policy and/or of the Student Code of Conduct will be imposed in accordance with applicable WATC policies, including but not limited to, expulsion.

Accused parties should refer to WATC’s Student Code of Conduct for more information on their rights, resolution of disciplinary charges, disciplinary procedures and responsibilities.

**Policy Owner – Position Title**
Director of Safety and Security