

NACCB Interactive Session Report

Building a Better Fieldwork Future: Preventing Sexual Harassment and Assault in Fieldwork

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“Building a Better Fieldwork Future (BBFF): Preventing Sexual Harassment and Assault in Fieldwork” was delivered as an interactive workshop at NACCB 20202. This 90-minute workshop involved lecture components interspersed with scenario-based bystander intervention practice in breakout groups and facilitated share-backs.

The content within this workshop was grouped into four main sections: 1) defining harassment and assault, 2) preparing to reduce risk, 3) intervening in incidents, and 4) reporting. The facilitator shared best practices that have been developed by a team of field researchers from the BBFF Program at UC Santa Cruz. These practices include logistics like proper communication of hygiene, privacy, and bathroom protocols, building positive climates through team-building and community agreements, and establishing confidential and field-ready reporting channels.

After each of these sections, participants were given a short breakout scenario to work through in a small group (Box 1). These scenarios ranged from “low level” harassment incidents to emergency response to assault. After discussing for four minutes, the facilitator guided participants through structured share-backs.

Participants were very engaged in this workshop, asking questions specific to their field site and to the topic as a whole. Overall participants reported positive feedback from the workshop, and the content spurred multiple conversations among participants after the workshop was over.

More workshop information about the BBFF workshop can be accessed at fieldworkfuture.ucsc.edu.