UNOLS Committee for Maintaining an Environment of Respect Aboard Ships (MERAS)

- Medical privacy, pregnancy policies
- Promotion of civility, respect
- Prevention of harassment, discrimination, bullying

Committee Membership:
- Debbie Steinberg/VIMS (Co-Chair)
- Mark Brzezinski/UCSB (Co-Chair)
- Clare Reimers/OSU
- Bruce Appelgate/SIO
- Scott Ferguson/UH
- Chris Measures/UH
- Brandi Murphy/UW
- Assisted by: UNOLS Office- Alice, Annette, Caitlin, & Jon
Video Project: Shipboard Civility

- Collaborative effort between NSF, ONR, NOAA, and UNOLS
- Composed of three modules
  - Module 1 (~12 minutes) – *Shipboard Civility: Fostering a Respectful Work Environment* --Will be released Jan 1, 2019
    - NOAA supported production, produced by Maritime Training Services
    - Applicable to all Research Vessels
    - Explains appropriate, respectful behavior and provides Scenarios as animations
  - Module 2 (~12 minutes) – Fleet-Specific Video
    - Issues/information/practices that apply to all UNOLS ships
    - Finished scenario development, engaging script writer
  - We will own the videos and they can be shared openly (e.g., YouTube)
  - Module 3 – Ship specific information regarding policies and reporting. In the form of posters or PPTs
    - All operators have sent in their ship specific material;
    - *addition of hotline info to posters (RAINN necessary?)
UNOLS video – scenario overview
MERAS committee- Maintaining an Environment of Respect Aboard Ships

• Discrimination- Assuming someone’s knowledge or ability based on how they look (Beginning of cruise/Loading ship)

• Cornered/ trapped/ stalked (shipboard laboratory scene)

• Bullying (on deck)

• Unwanted sexual advance / harassment (off-ship at end-of-cruise party: an abrupt change in environment and perceived relationship)
Other MERAS activities

- Request from NSF - Development of a short white-paper providing broader guidance to operators for “milestone” ceremonies done onboard the vessels or while loading/unloading in port (e.g., equator or date-line crossings, first ALVIN dives, end of cruise celebrations)
  - Hazing not ok
  - But benefits to ceremonies (comaraderie) if done appropriately