



STEVENSON

April 20, 2017

Dear Stevenson Community:

As has been recently reported in the national media, a comprehensive independent investigation of faculty and staff sexual misconduct towards students at Choate Rosemary Hall—a prestigious independent secondary school in Wallingford, CT—has resulted in a report that includes mention of Mr. Adam Hardej, who was employed at Stevenson from 1985-1988 following his departure from Choate.

There is no record of sexual misconduct by Mr. Hardej when he worked at Stevenson. Nonetheless, his alleged behavior at Choate unavoidably raises concerns about his conduct here, in part because we know that the avenues for students to report such behavior thirty years ago were much less established than they are now.

In this light, I write to encourage those who attended Stevenson during Mr. Hardej's time here and who may have received inappropriate attention from him to contact us so that we can offer support and take proper action. Moreover, any former student who feels that she or he received inappropriate attention from any member of the faculty or staff during their time at Stevenson is also encouraged to contact us. If you are in this category, please contact either me (831-625-8300) or the school's attorney, Brian Call, at Fenton and Keller (831-373-1241); we will do our best to respect your privacy.

In closing, you should know that the school is committed to students' safety and wellbeing, and to the community's continuous education regarding behavioral boundaries and standards. For example, all Stevenson faculty and staff are now required to sign a Code of Ethical Conduct for Employees in Relation to Students as a condition of employment, and receive regular scenario-based training to support their duty under California state law to report students' suspected abuse, neglect, or mental suffering. Additionally, students are regularly encouraged to seek out any adult they trust if and when they see or feel something that makes them feel strange, ashamed, nervous, or threatened. In these ways and many others, we seek to ensure that Stevenson remains a community marked by our shared commitment to safety, trust, and respect.

Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin M. Hicks '85
President and Head of School