Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

The University of Southern Mississippi is committed to building and preserving a safe community conducive to academic success, where each person is prepared to address issues that could affect our individual or collective safety, well-being, and ability to learn and grow.

In order to educate our community proactively, the University has secured a series of online courses that cover a variety of topics related to the protection of confidential information, different types of discrimination, security awareness, diversity, and other ethical considerations.

Beginning Sept. 1 and continuing through January, these courses will be provided for students and for benefit-eligible faculty, staff, adjuncts, and affiliates as outlined below. Each person who should complete the course(s) will receive an email including specific instructions and a link to access each class from the vendor WorkPlace Answers. Additional information will be distributed within the next two weeks.

**September 2015**

- Students will complete *Student Empower Plus* (a course on alcohol abuse, drug abuse and Title IX issues).
- Faculty, Staff, Adjuncts, and Affiliates will complete *Code of Conduct* and *Preventing Discrimination and Sexual Violence: Title IX, VAWA, and Clery Act for Faculty and Staff*.
- Faculty, Staff, Faculty Supervisors, Staff Supervisors, and Student Employees will complete *Unlawful Harassment Prevention for Higher Education*.

**November 2015**

- Faculty, Staff, Adjuncts, and Affiliates will complete *PCI Security Standards for IT and Back Office* and *Security Awareness*.

**January 2016**

- Students will complete *Student Empower*.
- Faculty, Staff, Adjuncts, and Affiliates will complete three courses covering diversity, FERPA, and bullying.

If you have any questions or concerns at this time, please contact the Office of Compliance via email at compliance@usm.edu.

Thank you in advance for your participation in these efforts to enhance our University community.
Sincerely,

Rodney D. Bennett  
President