



Catlin Gabel

December 21, 2019

To our Alumni Community,

We want to offer our deepest apologies to everyone who has been hurt or traumatized by either enduring or witnessing abuse at Catlin Gabel. By continuing to uncover our painful past, we can help prevent all types of abuse from happening in the future. We would also like to thank everyone who attended last Saturday's meeting, as well as all the other alumni who have reached out to us since the findings were released. Your concerns, advice, and feedback on what Catlin can do better are critically important.

Below are next steps based on the feedback we received from you.

1. Another Alumni Meeting

The next listening session is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, beginning at 1 p.m. at the World Forestry Center, located at 4033 SW Canyon Road in Portland. The gathering will be facilitated by a mental health, abuse trauma informed, professional who has no connection to the school. The entire board has been asked to attend this meeting so they can hear directly from you. Inviting the entire board was something we should have done for the first meeting. Trustees will be there to listen and learn from you to form critical next steps.

2. Ongoing and Expanding Investigation

The investigation is not complete. The release of the findings was the first step in documenting the sexual misconduct that occurred at Catlin Gabel. Lori Watson, the independent investigator, is still receiving reports.

- For those who were impacted by abuse in any way, we ask that you consider sharing your experience with her via email at lori@watsonlawpdx.com or by calling her at (971) 291-7672 or by reporting anonymously via voicemail at (503) 972-1581.
- It is not only those who were directly affected by the abuse that may have information worth reporting. If you have any information, even the smallest detail, as a bystander and fellow student, anything you might have seen or heard or even have a gut feeling about, this is all potentially vital information for the investigation.

Every report is taken seriously and can potentially help corroborate other reports. Ms. Watson will also continue to refer reports to the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and law enforcement when appropriate. We will continue to provide updates on the investigation findings.

3. Streamlined Communications

To avoid re-traumatizing survivors and witnesses, all future updates will be shared on the investigation page of our website catlin.edu/investigation and alumni will be notified regularly about those updates. In addition, a [form](#) is available on the investigation webpage for those who wish to share feedback with us directly.

4. New Communication Platforms

Some of you have indicated that the closed Catlin Alumni Facebook group is not an ideal place to share information. We have identified two additional platforms: [Slack](#) or [Mighty Networks](#). Since all platforms have specific terms and conditions that allow the platform to access any shared information, this may not be ideal. We welcome additional ideas, and our IT department is happy to provide guidance to alumni interested in launching a new platform.

5. Catlin Gabel Therapy Fund

We are still working with [RAINN](#) to establish a Catlin Gabel Therapy Fund to assist survivors with costs related to therapy associated with sexual misconduct experienced during their time at Catlin Gabel. As soon as we have details to share, we will do so.

6. Study Group on School Culture

Your stories told us, over and over, that the culture at Catlin Gabel was complicit in the abuse, and a powerful deterrent to truth and transparency. We will be taking a deep dive into the culture of our school to understand where it is that Catlin Gabel made mistakes that allowed this abuse to occur to prevent history from repeating itself. We want to know how we can go beyond “best practices” to keep our students safe and adults on watch. We are in the beginning phases of organizing this group—who should be on it, who should lead it, and how long it should take. Our intent is to focus on reviewing and defining the school culture we want and have; identifying what gaps might still exist; and implementing key policies to keep students safe. Your feedback is welcome, and we will provide more detail as the group gets traction.

The path of healing is long, and we have only taken the first steps. We are grateful for each of you who has reached out to express your concern for fellow alumni, your care for current and future students, and your thoughtful feedback. It is an honor to witness you lifting each other up, supporting one another.

Thank you again for leading this important conversation. It is your hard-won wisdom that we must listen to and we welcome your thoughts as we go forward. We are listening.

Sincerely,



Bart Eberwein
Chair, Board of Trustees



Indira Nallakrishnan
Vice Chair and Chair-Elect, Board of Trustees



Tim Bazemore
Head of School