Campus Prevention
On campuses across the nation, student activists have come together to break the silence that has surrounded sexual violence. Events such as Take Back the Night rallies have helped raise awareness and students have fought to improve resources on their campuses. At the same time, campuses have also been the site of infamous incidents of sexual violence and displays of rape culture. Just reading this sentence, do certain events immediately come to your mind? They do for me. Yet the voices that I heard at those rallies on my college campus have stayed with me and give hope there is change coming.

While campus sexual violence still is a huge problem, the encouraging news is that those voices speaking out against it increasingly include influential policy makers. Recently Vice President Biden spoke out demanding that we increase efforts to end sexual violence and provide victims with more support. As well as formal guidance from the Office for Civil Rights to strengthen and expand what is provided for sexual assault victims in Title IX. In 2005, PISC addressed sexual violence on campuses. Now seven years later, we are taking another look at this topic to assess the state of prevention on campuses. The recent increased attention is a reminder to survey what is out there and what we still need in order to establish more effective prevention on campuses.

In this issue of Partners in Social Change, we examine some of the programs, approaches, and resources that exist for sexual violence prevention on campuses. Much of what is happening across campuses and being promoted at the national level is designed to raise awareness that sexual violence is happening, reduce risks for potential victims, improve services and response to victims, and potentially stop isolated incidences of violence. We begin by reviewing considerations and resources. Then we hear from Jaclyn Friedman about the pitfalls of traditional rape prevention programming. As always, we highlight what is happening here in our state, this time through interviews from three Washington State campuses that are building relationships with their communities in order to strengthen efforts to prevent violence and support students. Next, we share overviews of new technological tools—Hollaback’s campus initiative and Circle of 6—which are using apps and websites to break the silence and offer resources for dealing with campus sexual violence. Finally, we propose questions to continue the discussion using an anti-oppression framework and share related resources available in the WCSAP library.

We hope this issue provides helpful considerations and tools for those working to end campus sexual violence. We welcome feedback at prevention@wcsap.org.

Cordially,

Kat Monusky, Prevention Specialist
WCSAP, Prevention Resource Center
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The mission of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs is to unite agencies engaged in the elimination of sexual violence through education, advocacy, victim services, and social change.

The Prevention Resource Center is a project of WCSAP designed to provide support and technical assistance to individuals, communities, and agencies engaged in sexual violence prevention within Washington State.

Partners in Social Change is published by the WCSAP Prevention Resource Center from its office in Olympia, Washington. The focus of this publication is to present information and resources for the prevention of sexual violence, with a special emphasis on social change.

For membership information, visit www.wcsap.org.

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College and university campuses have long been the site of programming that raises awareness about sexual and intimate partner violence. There are several reasons for this. One of them is that much research suggests that college-aged students are within one of the highest risk categories for these types of violence. The dynamics of the campus environment also make campuses an obvious choice for addressing sexual violence.

So, what is it about campus environments? Let’s examine the unattainable dichotomy that is presented. Some messages portray colleges as the place where young people develop into grounded, intellectual, and skilled adults—perhaps even dabble in philosophical debates that expand the mind in new ways. Yet much mainstream media portrays campuses as merely the backdrop to crazy parties, experimentation with drugs, and sexual promiscuity. These portrayals of campus life are in opposition to one another and do not set the stage for a healthy balance. Additionally, college-aged students are still developing their identities so they are vulnerable to absorb the rape culture messages that are so prevalent in this environment. Could these opposing messages about campus norms combined with dangerous societal messages about gender and sexuality delivered to developing youth create an environment for rape culture to flourish on campuses?

Examining campus environments, we find (on the positive side) that they also provide conditions that are helpful for awareness and prevention programming. For traditional campuses, there tends to be a sense of community that programs can tap into and create a climate of respect and equality to counter the norms of rape culture. Prevention programming that uses the bystander approach builds on the sense of community and the camaraderie of students to spread messages of zero tolerance for sexual violence. The campus may require incoming students to attend orientations that include information about sexual violence. Campuses can offer classes and volunteer groups that incorporate a sexual violence prevention focus. Depending on the college or university, many students may live in campus housing and therefore can be mentored by their residential advisors to become more aware of and invested in prevention programming. Most college students are old enough where parental permission is not needed and they are developmentally ready to have in-depth conversations about structures of oppression that contribute to rape culture.

There are a variety of models that are used across campuses to address sexual violence. However, the most common strategies are often not designed as primary prevention. Many schools have used their mandatory freshman and incoming student orientation as a mechanism to alert students to the presence of sexual violence and to inform them about campus policy, response procedures, and resources available when violence does occur. Other awareness efforts may include rallies, marches, bringing in popular speakers for an event, self-defense workshops, and in-service presentations to groups. These one-time presentations or events alone are not effective in changing the norms that allow for sexual violence to occur. However, they can be valuable in other capacities, such as recruiting peer educators, fundraisers, encouraging survivors to get connected with resources, and helping students build empathy for survivors.

In an effort to create more effective prevention programming, many schools have begun to incorporate bystander programming with students. Not only can these programs deliver messages over longer periods of time, they may also work across multiple levels of the Social Ecological Model by involving students and the campus community. Many schools have chosen to use national models for bystander programs. It is important to remember that programming should be tailored to each campus community, even if it is adapted from a formalized program.
Here are some important questions to ask and areas to investigate when assessing the capacity of a college or university to prevent sexual violence:

- Are information and resources about sexual violence made available when students enter?
- Do these messages challenge rape myths, shift the burden off victims, and encourage bystander actions?
- Are these trainings or information sessions mandatory for new students?
- Are these messages repeated throughout the year and throughout students’ entire academic careers?
- Are there opportunities for students to become more engaged in sexual violence prevention, such as through classroom projects or volunteer groups?
- Are a variety of students recruited into these programs so that there is a more widespread effect on the campus?
- Are students provided with incentives to participate in prevention projects, such as course credits and leadership development?
- Are there widespread campus messages that promote nonviolence, respect, healthy sexuality, and other such positive norms?
- Are messages built into existing mechanisms? Are they part of an intentional social marketing campaign?
- Are there events on campus where students can learn about the realities of sexual violence and hear from survivors?
- Is there campus staff dedicated to work on prevention and response to sexual violence? Are these staff members supported within a department that has resources?
- Are prevention programs spearheaded by one department or is the entire campus community invested?
- Are there strong sexual assault policies that hold perpetrators accountable?
- Are members of the faculty and staff (including security personnel) trained on sexual assault, identifying “red flags,” and making appropriate referrals?
- Are members of review and judicial boards well trained to understand the dynamics of sexual violence and common experiences by victims?

There are several nationwide prevention programs that utilize a bystander approach to address and prevent sexual violence. Here are a few of the programs geared for campuses: Bringing in The Bystander Program and Know Your Power Social Marketing Campaign from The University of New Hampshire; Green Dot, et cetera, Inc; Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP); The Red Flag Campaign from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

Considerations
Freshman orientation, peer educator groups, classroom lectures, online tools, rallies or events, trained staff, adequate resources, and strong policies are all important pieces of the puzzle for preventing sexual violence on campuses. Just as with any real puzzle, the picture will be incomplete with only one piece in place. It may take time to incorporate all of these pieces on your campus but if truly preventing sexual violence before it occurs is our goal then we need to demand more from our campuses.

References


1 Interested in learning more about campus sexual assault policies? Check out WCSAP’s Advocacy Station, Campus Sexual Assault Policies. http://www.wcsap.org/campus-sexual-assault-policies.
College is back in session, and that means it's time for a lot of ineffective pageantry on rape prevention. Don't our young women deserve better?

The college students are back. They're in the grocery stores, stocking up on Top Ramen. They're at IKEA, buying oddly shaped pillows for their dorm rooms. Very soon, they'll be at parties, doing things that would give their parents full-on coronaries. And that means it's time for a classic college ritual, adult-style: freaking out about the safety of our girls.

At about this time every year, adult anxiety about sexual assault reaches a tipping point and gives way to an avalanche of advice to young women from campuses, commentators, and parents alike: Don't hook up! Don't dress provocatively! Watch your drink! Actually, don't drink at all! Always stay with a friend! Don't stay out too late! Don't walk home alone! Etcetera, etcetera, ad nauseam.
And every year, it fails to work. A 2007 Department of Justice-funded trend analysis of rape studies over time revealed that rates of rape haven’t declined in the past 15 years – in fact, they may be increasing.

Why hasn’t it worked? Perhaps it’s because making rape prevention the responsibility of young women teaches students that guys can’t be expected to be responsible for their own actions. Not surprisingly, that results in student bodies eager to let rapists off the hook and campus policies (like the one recently implemented at Tufts that forces victims into "mediation" with their rapists) that treat rape as an unfortunate disagreement instead of like the violent crime it is. Make no mistake about the danger of these equanimous attitudes – in his 2002 landmark study of 1,882 male college students in the Boston area, Dr. David Lisak demonstrated that most campus rapes are perpetrated not by well-meaning boys confused about consent but by repeat-offender sociopaths who know exactly what they’re doing. Treating rape like an unfortunate but understandable miscommunication doesn’t just deny victims justice and downplay the traumatic nature of the experience – it allows rapists to remain free to rape again and again.

Meanwhile, we set an impossibly high bar of behavior for young women – one that they’re bound to miss at some point, because, just like the rest of us humans, young women sometimes choose short-term pleasure over the abstract possibility of risk. And when a guy rapes a young woman while she’s violating the Rules of Safety – let’s say she’s at a party and dancing and she’s flirting – what follows are questions about her behavior, how much she’d been drinking, how she might have led him on.

Rape on campus is a very real problem. Cautious estimates suggest that nearly one in every 10 female college students will be raped while she’s at school. With an estimated 18 million students attending college in the U.S. this year, that’s (conservatively) over 150,000 young women who’ll be raped while at college this year alone. That’s a public health crisis. It’s time to start treating it like one.

What would it look like if colleges did just that? For starters, they would provide in-depth programs on healthy sexuality and sexual safety, instead of getting by with a pamphlet and an hour demonstration at orientation. Schools would stop telling girls to mind their liquor so they don’t “get themselves” raped and start teaching young men that alcohol is never an excuse to “get away” with anything. They would offer bystander training, so that all students on campus know what it looks like when someone’s sexual boundaries are being violated and what to do if they see that happening. They would teach students that the only real consent is the kind that’s freely and enthusiastically given, removing the “she didn’t exactly say no” excuse that too many rapists hide behind. And their campus policies would support prevention, recovery, and justice, not dismissiveness, victim-blaming, and denial.

A few schools are doing some of this already. But there’s no systemic oversight into who’s doing what, and all signs point to the fact that most schools are doing far too little. That’s especially alarming when you consider that Title IX – the federal law guaranteeing equal access to education for all genders – requires schools to take strong, active steps to prevent rape on campus. That means they need to be implementing real policies that work, not just going through motions that make them look concerned.

All of us who care about the safety of girls ought to be doing the same. It’s not even that hard. Imagine what would happen if each of us called a school we care about today and let administrators know that we’re watching and that we expect them to do what we all should be doing: taking responsibility for rape prevention off of the potential victims and placing it where it belongs – with the potential perpetrators and with the adults and institutions whose job it is to keep young people safe.

Author Bio
Jaclyn Friedman is author of What You Really Really Want: The Smart Girl’s Shame-Free Guide to Sex and Safety, and editor of Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape. She is executive director of Women, Action & the Media, and a charter member of CounterQuo, a coalition dedicated to challenging the ways we respond to sexual violence.

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Editor’s Note

In this issue of PISC we’ve been examining what is happening on campuses to promote the prevention of sexual violence. What we are learning is that campuses and their student populations often need resources and policies tailored to the unique conditions that exist in this environment. Of course campuses do not truly live in a bubble on their own; they are a part of their community. In Washington State, our sexual violence prevention efforts have heavily drawn on the philosophy that communities are the experts in determining the best approach to ending sexual violence. An integral part of this approach understands that relationships are key to success. The following interviews examine the relationships that campuses have with community sexual assault programs.

Washington State is fortunate enough to be graced with several impressive colleges and universities; let’s take a look at what is happening here in our state. The Prevention Resource Center conducted interviews with staff from three Washington schools: The Evergreen State College, Washington State University, and Western Washington University. All of these schools have established offices and staff to address sexual violence prevention and response for students. Interested in learning about the programs they champion, the relationships they have fostered with community programs, and hearing their tips for others to build these relationships? Read on!
The Evergreen State College’s Office of Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention

Talcott Broadhead, Coordinator of the Office of Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention

**PRC: Can you tell us about The Evergreen State College?**

**TB:** Evergreen is tucked away in the lush rainforest of Olympia, Washington. Known for its innovative interdisciplinary, collaborative and team-taught academic programs Evergreen has an undergraduate program, a graduate program, and public service centers that together constitute a unique academic setting. Evergreen values a student-centered learning environment, a link between theory and practice, and a multicultural community of diverse faculty, students and staff working together. Evergreens’ current enrollment is approximately 4,800 students. The Evergreen campus community interacts extensively with local and national communities. Evergreen’s Public Service Centers provide a prominent link to the community and with the individualized learning option, students often intern with local community agencies.

**PRC: What is your role at Evergreen?**

**TB:** I am the Coordinator of the Office of Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention (OSAP) at The Evergreen State College. I also teach Transgender Studies courses as Faculty. My office provides culturally competent, Queer and Trans*-competent, services sensitive to the unique needs of students, particularly those whom are members of groups disproportionately affected by sexual violence. I coordinate educational workshops and events that engage through a primary prevention approach. I engage high-risk populations (both those at high-risk of victimization as well as those at high-risk of perpetration) in secondary prevention informed workshops, films, and discussions, and finally I provide tertiary services to survivors. This includes: educational, medical and legal advocacy, advocacy-based therapy, crisis response and intervention as well as other advocacy as requested by the survivor.
Because both indigenous and trans* / queer communities are disproportionately affected by both sexual violence and bias crime my office works extensively on increasing its services and allyship to those communities. A positive outcome of this work is that OSAP has become a de facto resource sharing location for both First Peoples, trans* / queer folks, and those who identify at the intersections therein.

**PRC:** How does your office collaborate with the community sexual assault program?

**TB:** OSAP’s community collaboration is extensive. OSAP and Safeplace, our Community Sexual Assault Program (CSAP), collaborate frequently. We come together regularly to provide prevention programming that draws on Safeplace’s experience in the community and my experience working within the campus climate. We have provided ongoing therapeutic support groups for women, support groups for trans* survivors, dialogues on bystander intervention, healthy-relationship skills workshops, therapeutic craft groups, zine-making workshops, and more. Safeplace has been extremely generous in their support of OSAP programming and I do all I can to support their community events and provide consultation when/if requested. I find both their advocates and their administrative staff thoughtful and easy to work with. While my office is confidential, at times students prefer to engage their support off-campus rather than on-campus. For this reason, it is important that we have strong representation for Safeplace here on campus, including access to information, literature, and informative workshop opportunities for students. Many of Safeplace’s advocates are or were Evergreen students themselves. This is helpful because these advocates have an understanding of both the opportunities for survivors on campus as well as the various roles that campus staff can play in coordinating survivor support.

For more information about The Evergreen State College’s Office of Sexual Assault Prevention, please contact Talcott Broadhead, MSW, 360-867-5521 or visit http://www.evergreen.edu/health/osap/.

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1 Trans* is a more inclusive way to acknowledge multiple trans identities without listing all of them, including non-binary identities. In computing the asterisk is used to imply that ‘in place of this asterisk any number of characters may follow, or none at all.’

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**Ways that community sexual assault programs and campuses can build relationships and work together:**

- **Show Up!**
  Attend each other’s events. I can’t emphasize enough how important it has been for me to have Safeplace folks attend my events. I feel so validated and supported by their attendance. Likewise, I make every effort to attend Safeplace events. Living in a small community like Olympia, my attendance is poignant in many ways: I am showing my support of their hard work, and community members associate that with Evergreen and recognize and validate our collaboration.

- **Consult, consult, consult!**
  Call each other! Better yet: meet in person! We all benefit from an opportunity to share both our struggles and our successes in this field. We have much to learn from one another.

- **Be Available.**
  We are busy people. Everyone is busy, we know. However, making yourself available is integral to positive relations with your colleagues. If you can’t respond immediately to a voicemail, send a nice email message acknowledging that you received their call and that you will get back to them shortly. If possible, set aside even just a half hour per week on your calendar to phone and check-in with a point person or advocate at the CSAP or campus office.

- **Share resources!**
  Campus communities have access to funding streams in different places and from different sources than CSAPs. CSAPs often receive many of their donations in kind. If you are able to, support each other and work to not duplicate services but to collaborate. Perhaps a CSAP has access to donated art supplies that can be used to host a collaborative crafting workshop together while a campus community may have the capacity to fund an engaging outside speaker or specialized workshop. Communicate and collaborate.
PRC: Can you tell us about Washington State University?  
NF: Washington State University (WSU) is located in Pullman, WA. Total enrollment is just under 20,000 students. Pullman, WA has a population just under 30,000. Pullman is a few miles from the Idaho border and the University of Idaho in Moscow. WSU’s presence is very strong in Pullman. Pullman is very supportive of the university and vice versa. Events like WSU football, Mom’s and Dad’s Weekends, and other events bring in many visitors from out of town. During summer and winter breaks, Pullman definitely starts to feel like a much smaller town when the students are gone. There are a couple of restaurants I usually only go to when students are out of town. Otherwise, they are way too busy!!

PRC: What is your role at WSU?  
NF: I am the Violence Prevention Coordinator. This is a new position funded by a Department of Justice Campus Grant, which WSU received late in 2011. Prior to this role I worked at Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse (ATVP) as the Coordinator of Sexual Assault Services for over five years! I oversee the Green Dot program on campus and I’m currently working with my colleagues on strategic planning for next year. Last year, we reached over 2,000 members of the WSU community and received really helpful feedback that will inform the direction we take next year. We already have numerous requests for members of the Greek community who are interested in getting their entire chapters trained. It is looking to be a busy fall semester for us and I’m very excited about that!
One thing about my position that is different than some other university violence prevention programs is that I do not provide direct advocacy services to survivors. We provide referrals to ATVP for advocacy services and an advocate from ATVP is on-campus two mornings a week to meet with students (they can meet with students anytime, but this is their dedicated on-campus time). I am also involved with other grant activities. These activities include:

- **Developing a campus Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team** to address, respond to, and ultimately prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- **Supporting offices on campus that are revising campus policies and procedures.** This working group is currently suggesting revisions of the university’s policy relating to sexual harassment and discrimination. The group is also creating suggestions for revisions to the Student Codes of Conduct. The goals of the revisions to policies and procedures are to create an environment where allegations of sexual misconduct are addressed in a timely, supportive and nondiscriminatory manner. It was helpful to read the WCSAP Advocacy Station, *Campus Sexual Assault Policies*, document that came out recently!

- **Implementing mandatory education for all incoming undergraduate students.** The information consists of campus policies, ways students can help to contribute to a safe campus (Green Dot!), and information on resources for victims. I provide this education to all transfer students and orientation counselors provide the education to incoming freshman during summer orientation. Before they do this, the orientation counselors meet with me to receive training on issues of preventing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking as well as practical information for facilitating conversations with students about these issues. Next year, we’ll be implementing mandatory online education for all incoming undergrads. I’m very excited about this because I get to help with the development of this content, which will address preventing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- **Assisting Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse in planning and providing training for all campus and city police officers.** This training will also be open to other service providers in the area. This is tentatively scheduled for the fall 2012 and will focus on recognizing and responding to domestic violence and stalking.

- **Developing a Violence Prevention Center and a comprehensive violence prevention program.** The Center will work with students, faculty, staff, and community partners toward effectively and collaboratively minimizing the incidence of dating and domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking on the WSU campus. We currently have a physical space and hope to have it fully furnished and open to the campus sometime this academic year. We envision this as a space that will be utilized to conduct Green Dot programming for staff, faculty, students, and other interested groups. Ideally, the Center will also function as a space that members of the WSU community can utilize for studying, meetings, training opportunities, and other events.
Ways that community sexual assault programs and campuses can build relationships and work together:

- Get in where you can. Ask questions like, “how can we help you?” People working on campus, just like community based advocates, are busy! If the Greek community has mandatory education they must complete around sexual violence, offer to provide all or part of that training. It may only be once a year, and it may be to a group of 400 students, but it’s certainly a foot in the door! Really stress how working together can be beneficial to both sides.

- Find out if there are any university fairs or events your agency can participate in. For example, ATVP has a regular presence at the all-campus picnic at the beginning of the year, which reaches all incoming freshman just before the fall semester starts. ATVP also tables at the Wellness Fair and other such events on campus.

- Invite members of the campus community to any existing off-campus CCR meetings.

- Consider reaching out to Health/Wellness programs on campus, whose mission is often to promote healthy behaviors within the campus community. What a great potential partner for a community development project on healthy relationships!

- Advertise a support group or other community events in the campus newspaper. It’s free!

- Flyers around campus are always helpful. If other universities are like WSU, they have streamlined processes for distributing flyers, so you’re not necessarily walking around to each individual building or office on campus.

- Get involved with Take Back the Night, Clothesline Projects, or other campus events around Violence Against Women issues.

PRC: What types of prevention activities are happening at WSU?

NF: The most visible primary prevention is happening through Green Dot implementation. The program was officially launched in October 2011, so it is still quite new. We are scheduling Green Dot events over the summer and fall. ATVP has trained facilitators that are often able to co-present the material with us. I think it’s important to have advocates assist with Green Dot because advocates bring a different perspective to the training. Plus, advocates have a level of confidentiality that I do not have as a WSU employee. As you can imagine, we’re discussing tough topics that often bring up a lot of emotions for people in the audience. It is important to have an advocate available who can debrief with anyone during or afterwards, since they can offer confidentiality. Advocates are also more familiar with resources off-campus. It has worked out quite well for us to team up together on this project. Other types of “prevention” happening on campus don’t reach the level of primary. It’s more risk reduction and education.

PRC: How does your office collaborate with the community sexual assault program?

NF: As I mentioned, WSU has an amazing relationship with Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse (ATVP). ATVP has an office on-campus and they have been essential in helping with the Green Dot launch campus wide. ATVP also provides advocacy to the WSU community and are involved with many WSU events. This is in addition to serving the rest of this county, as well as across the border in Idaho. ATVP has had a relationship with the university long before I came to the area. In the time I worked at ATVP, I was able to work frequently with many members of the campus. ATVP provides presentations to various groups on campus. ATVP is also a member of the campus Coordinated Community Response team. They will have an office in the Violence Prevention Center when it is opened.

For more information about the sexual violence prevention projects of the Washington State University’s Health & Wellness Services, please contact Nikki Finnestead at nfinnestead@wsu.edu or visit http://greendot.wsu.edu/.
Can you tell us about Western Washington University?

Western Washington University (WWU) is located in Bellingham, Washington and has about 15,000 students. The demographics of the university: 94% undergraduates, 20% students of color, 92% of freshmen live on campus, more than 160 academic programs, and a 21:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

What is your role at WWU?

My role is coordinating the Violence Prevention efforts on campus, which include three main parts. First is being the Coordinator of our Crime and Sexual Assault Support Services (CASAS), where I am the advocate for any WWU student affected by sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. Secondly, I spend a lot of my time recruiting, training, and mentoring our group of peer health educators in WEAVE (Women’s Empowerment and Violence Education). Lastly, I work with our Men’s Violence Prevention Coordinator to provide Safe Space Trainings and other presentations on violence prevention throughout the staff, faculty, and student body.

What types of prevention activities are happening at WWU?

Every incoming student is required to take our SHARE (Social Health and Responsibility Education) online tutorial, which runs through video scenarios of red flag situations regarding potential sexual assault, unhealthy relationships, and stalking behaviors. They take the tutorial during their first quarter at WWU, and through the tutorial gain information about how to help a friend and resources on WWU’s campus. Our peer health educators in WEAVE and in our Men’s Violence Prevention group also do door-to-door programming in our residence halls and in classrooms by request, and put on events throughout the year discussing many things, including masculinity, communication, consent, bystander intervention, women’s empowerment, how to support survivors, dating, and being an ally. I also train all Residence Life staff, Associated Students Board of Directors, and other student employees at the start of the year on how to identify violence, support students, and refer to other campus or community resources.
PRC: How does your office collaborate with the community sexual assault program?

DO: Our community sexual assault program is Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS). Currently, DVSAS and WWU have an informal relationship. Other than personal friendships, the CASAS line has a voicemail afterhours referring to DVSAS by pushing 1 on their phone so that a survivor only has to call one telephone number 24 hours a day. I also train the DVSAS volunteers on CASAS services and how to refer to us when appropriate. In return, DVSAS trains my peer health educators on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault each year.

The relationship began at the beginning of the creation of CASAS. In 1999, WWU received grant funds from the Department of Justice’s Ending Violence Against Women grant, which allowed CASAS to connect with DVSAS as a formal partner agency. This meant that CASAS line got forwarded to DVSAS after hours and on weekends, and we did the training of each other’s volunteers, as mentioned above. The original Coordinator of CASAS was hired from DVSAS, and when she left, I was hired from DVSAS, so there’s always been a natural personal connection as well.

PRC: What are the benefits of the relationship with the community sexual assault program?

DO: It’s certainly a benefit for the WWU community to have this relationship in the broader community with DVSAS, because they are an incredible organization that supports the entire county. Their staff and volunteers are exceptional, so it gives me peace of mind to know that if for some reason, a student bypassed CASAS services, they would be in great hands with DVSAS. It’s also important to have a good relationship because we have the same goal in mind, so it would make sense to support one another. I know they definitely have had my back when I’ve needed them to help a student when things got too busy on my end, and they can call me if they are working with a student so I can help with WWU related concerns, such as housing, contacting professors to help students with any academic support needs because of what they’ve experienced, and advocating for their client in our campus judicial system. It’s also so nice to be able to call them and say “Hey, didn’t you have a handout on ________? Could you email that to me?”

As I mentioned before, having such a positive relationship with our community program, DVSAS has really saved me at times. There are some very wonderful services that each of our offices can offer that the other can’t, so working together to provide the best support we can to survivors is crucial.

DVSAS can help provide student survivors with
• More availability to meet on short notice
• On-going advocacy
• Legal advocacy
• Volunteer opportunities on hotline
• Emotional support for me (this position can be very isolating)

CASAS can offer to students
• Academic advocacy
• Conduct reporting options
• Help moving if on campus
• College student support groups

Ways that community sexual assault programs and campuses can build relationships and work together:

There may be some of you that already have this kind of set up between campus and community sexual assault programs, but for those of you that are looking at how to create the relationship, or don’t have a college resource like CASAS, here are a few ideas to get started.

• Look to see what resources your colleges already have. Do they have a women’s center? Counseling center? Academic advising? Security? Any of these offices may be great places to start to see what they are offering or needing. It’s important that these offices know who you are, and how they can refer students to you.

• If there is already a program on your campus, become friends if you aren’t already. Chances are you have lots in common and you might find that the two agencies are already doing similar things, so you might be able to share the workload or work together on projects and also provide that emotional support for one another when you need to debrief. In this line of work, I am a firm believer in “the more advocates, the merrier me”.

For more information about Western Washington University’s Prevention & Wellness Services, please visit http://www.wwu.edu/chw/preventionandwellness/index.shtml or call 360-650-7982.
By collecting students’ reports of harassment in a safe and shareable way, we will develop a crowd-sourced initiative to end campus harassment on 10 college campuses over the next year. Our efforts will break the silence that has perpetrated sexual violence on college campuses, pronounce that any gender-based violence is unacceptable, and create a world where students have a response, and more importantly, a solution.

WHAT IS CAMPUS HARASSMENT? Campus harassment is sexual harassment that happens on campuses and includes bullying, groping, stalking, and assault. Across the United States, 51% of male students admit to sexually harassing their female counterparts. Campus harassment happens on rural and urban campuses, and at big and little schools. It’s happening in dining halls, dorm rooms, streets, and classrooms – and our students deserve better. Way better.

WHY NOW? Campus harassment has probably existed since the advent of higher education, but today it is at epic proportions: 62% of women and 61% of men report being sexually harassed on college campuses [AAUW, 2005]. Yale students caught on tape yelling “no means yes and yes means anal,” caused a nationwide uproar, and a group of student activists sued Yale University for creating a “hostile sexual environment” on campus. Amongst the LGBTQ community, CNN reports that 33% of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer) and 38% of transgender students, faculty and staff have seriously considered leaving their institution due to harassment. At Hollaback!, we’ve received hundreds of reports of campus harassment since we started in 2005. Like bullying, campus harassment has been accepted as simply the price you pay for being a woman, or being gay on a college campus. Yet for students, the solution is clear. According to the AAUW, 57% of students say they would like their college to offer a confidential web-based method for submitting complaints. Hollaback!’s campus initiative will do just that.

HOW WILL IT WORK? From postings-to-impressions data collected on Hollaback! since 2005, we know that each time a survivor shares their sexual harassment story, the post is read by over 2,500 others. Hollaback! combines the democratization of the cell phone with geo-mapping and the free iPhone and Droid apps, to create an entirely new way to mobilize social change.

The Hollaback! campus initiative will transform students into open-source activists with the touch of a button. Students can submit experiences of harassment through two easy portals: a) the free Hollaback! iPhone and Droid apps, and b) directly to their campus-specific Hollaback! website, which will link to our dynamic mapping system. We’ll track campus harassment through data points to quantify and communicate its impact to campus staff and administrators.

With your support, the Hollaback! campus initiative will create a safe, action-oriented response to campus harassment, and with powerful reporting features, it will finally put a face on everyday campus harassment and assault. By using data to establish the case against campus harassment, Hollaback!’s social change efforts will ultimately result in significant improvements in campus policy and a reduction in sexual harassment against students.
In conjunction with student activists, Hollaback! will ignite the fight against campus harassment by pairing on-campus activism with our award-winning anonymous mobile and web platform. Our work will include:

- **Custom Web Activism Portals.** Working with students to customize their Hollaback! site to their school, and training them on how to transform digital storytelling into concrete improvements on their campus;
- **Digital storytelling apps.** Encouraging students to document their stories of harassment and bystander intervention through free iPhone and Droid apps;
- **Educational Resources.** Providing on-line materials for students on how to deal with harassment, and university resources including: the campus rape crisis center, campus security, women’s and diversity clubs, and links to current harassment and assault policies (thanks to our partnership with SAFER);
- **Training and Support.** Providing ongoing training and an online community where students can receive sustained support.

A world without campus harassment is possible. Your support gets us one step closer. Hollaback!
With Circle of 6 you have a new way to connect with your most trusted friends – to stay close, stay safe and prevent violence before it happens!

It’s the mobile way to look out for your friends – on campus or when you’re out for the night.

Circle of 6 lets you choose six trusted friends to add to your circle. If you get into an uncomfortable or risky situation, use Circle of 6 to automatically send your circle a pre-programmed SMS alert message, with your exact location. It’s quick. It’s discreet. Two taps on your iPhone is all it takes.

Here’s how it works:

• You’re out late and you lose track of your friends.
  Use Circle of 6 to send your circle a “come and get me” message – with a map using GPS to show your precise location.

• You’re on a date that starts to get uncomfortable. You need a polite way to excuse yourself.
  Use Circle of 6 to alert your circle to call you and interrupt the situation.

• You’re seeing someone new, but you have some doubts about how things are going.
  Use Circle of 6 to access a wealth of online information about healthy relationships.

• In critical situations, use Circle of 6 to call two pre-programmed national hotlines or a local emergency number of your choice.

Circle of 6 is more than a safety application; it’s a community and a state of mind. It fosters the formation of groups based on trust, and it connects users with organizations who have made violence prevention their mission. We hope that the app becomes a vehicle for a social movement that champions safe and healthy relationships.
QUESTION OPPRESSION

Exploring the Connections Between Sexual Violence & Oppression

Use these questions to explore the connections between sexual violence and oppression with staff, volunteers, or board members. Try discussing one or more at a staff meeting, in-service, volunteer training, or board retreat.

Which aspects of racism, sexism, able-bodism, classism, and other forms of oppression are unique to the dynamics of rape culture on campuses?

How may students’ gender and cultural identities influence the way in which they connect with prevention messages? How about their individual experiences with systems of oppressions?

How can you partner with student groups, campus departments, or community organizations with expertise in underserved communities to make your prevention messages culturally and linguistically appropriate?

PREVENTION RESOURCES

WCSAP members have access to check out our library materials through the mail. Browse the catalog online! Questions can be directed to library@wcsap.org.

Campus Violence Prevention
Type: Toolkit
This manual provides guidance and tools to create a safe campus environment free of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. From CALCASA.

Hooking Up. Sex, Dating, and Relationships on Campus
Type: Book
This book addresses misconceptions about the “hook up” culture on college campuses. Contains student interviews of navigating the landscape of sexuality for young adults.

The Line Empower Kit
Type: Toolkit
The Empower Kit contains the DVD documentary “The Line”, an action toolkit, and a comprehensive study guide. These tools help start conversations about sexual violence, dispel myths, and encourage the exploration of consent.

Making Partnerships with Service Users and Advocacy Groups Work
Type: Book
This book uses stories of real partnerships to share approaches to pooling ideas, energy, skills, and experiences to make true collaborations work.

Campus Resource Organizations:
• American College Health Association. www.acha.org
• Association of Title IX Administration. www.atixa.org
• California Coalition Against Sexual Assault. www.calcasa.org/category/campus/
• Futures Without Violence. www.futureswithoutviolence.org
• National Sexual Violence Resource Center. www.nsvrc.org
• Office on Violence Against Women. www.ovw.usdoj.gov
• School and College Organization for Prevention Educators. www.wearescope.org
• Security on Campus, Inc. www.securityoncampus.org
• Students Active for Ending Rape. www.safercampus.org
• Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. www.aclu.org/womensrights
PISC is your magazine.
We'd love to hear from you!

We invite guest authors to submit pieces on a variety of topics, and welcome your submissions on prevention approaches, media reviews, and creative work like original art or poetry.

We would also like to feature highlights of your agency and the prevention work you are doing.

Direct submissions to prevention@wcsap.org