



## **Worcester State University SAVE Task Force Academic Year 2019-2020 Final Report**

### **Purpose:**

The Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) Task Force is a collaborative effort of individuals across academic and student affairs, working together to coordinate sexual and relational violence education and prevention efforts campus wide. The Task Force is comprised of administrators, staff, faculty and students representing various campus divisions, departments and disciplines, who are committed to “cultivating a vibrant campus life... in which all members of the WSU community feel welcomed, included, respected, empowered and valued” (Worcester State University, Strategic Plan). Through campus wide programming, training and resources, the task force will help to provide a safe, healthy and supportive campus climate, free of sexual and relational violence.

### **Goals:**

- Aid in the coordination of education and prevention efforts campus wide and across academic and student affairs.
- Promote education and awareness of sexual violence through trainings, presentations, programs and forums.
- Educate and raise awareness of the importance of bystander intervention and prosocial behavior.
- Support and promote programming which increases positive, healthy, mutually respectful student relational and sexual behavior, challenges student misperceptions about sexual assault and provides skills to aid prevention.
- Inform community members about intervention and support resources available on campus and in the greater Worcester community.
- Provide best practice recommendations to the campus community around prevention, intervention and education.

### **Membership:**

Members: Sarah Valois (Chair), Jen Quinn, Kelly Downs, Lindsay Ryan (Athletics Intern), Tiana Carrasquillo, Elena Arranz, Joanne Jaber-Gauvin, Kristie McNamara, Elizabeth Cernoia, Alize Cordell, Kristen Nelson, Vicki Gruczynski, Charlotte Haller (sabbatical), Bill Merrier, Marjeta Skenderi, Julie Frechette (email only), Catherine Sweeney (student), Rhiannon Dugan (student), Jaymi-Lyn Souza (student), Jason Feliciano (student)- events only

- 19 Members
- 10 Active
- 5 Students
- 1 Email membership

### Departments/Groups Represented

- 7 Student Affairs Departments
  - Counseling Services
  - Title IX/Office of AOD
  - OSILD
  - Residence Life
  - Athletics
  - Campus Ministry
  - University Police Department
- 5 Academic Affairs Departments
  - Admissions
  - DGCE
  - Urban Studies Institute
  - Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies
  - Department of Communication
- 2 Student Groups
  - Senate
  - It's On Us

### Incoming Members (FY2021):

Donald Brickman, Dean Bowen, Brittany Rende, Henry Theriault, Katie Frazier, Dana Rognile (pending contract renewal)

### **Meetings:**

- Meetings were held bi-weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters. Meetings transitioned to zoom following the change to remote learning.

### **FY2020 Achievements:**

- Development of SAVE Pocket Resource Guide
  - English and Spanish versions
  - Includes information on "Ensure Your Safety", "Seek Medical Attention", "Speak to a Counselor", "Consider Reporting Options", "title IX", "Other Assistance", "Mission Statement" and "Hotline/Online Resources".
  - Spanish version includes specific spanish speaking resources and websites
  - Hung up in bathrooms across campus with a supplemental poster to display pocket resource guides.
- "It IS My Place" - two performances of the *True 2 Life* sexual violence bystander intervention theatre presentation, "It IS My Place".
  - 790 (89%) of first year students attended.
  - 83 (17%) of transfer students attended- piloted adding transfer students.
  - 141 (16%) of students completed program evaluations.



- 95% of respondents learned ways to intervene during situations of alcohol or drug abuse, relational violence, stalking, sexual assault/violence, mental health concerns, and offensive or hate speech and the majority of students surveyed report increased confidence in responding to the areas listed above.
- Example Comments:
  - “This workshop has taught me how to respond to certain situations like stalking or assault that I didn’t know how to before. I also learned that consent is an extremely important aspect in a new AND old relationship and no matter how many times someone says yes, that may not be the answer all the time”.
  - “How to intervene in certain situations and what resources this school has to offer”.
- It IS My Place Student Leader FYS class debrief
  - Pilot program. 14 classes interested, 10 FYS classes participated.
  - 11 student leaders (combination of Orientation Leaders and SSN graduates) were trained to facilitate a peer lead bystander intervention discussion post the It IS My Place program.
  - This program allowed for smaller group discussion of University sexual violence policies as well as peer to peer discussion of how to overcome barriers to bystander intervention and intervene.
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
  - Red Flag Campaign- Cross departmental collaborative awareness event. Visual interactive display outside of LRC highlighting red flags of unhealthy and abusive relationships. Flags then displayed in the Wellness Center and Sheehan Lobby.
  - Resource distribution at Take Back The Night student event
  - Empty Place at the Table- weekly long visual display in Sheehan POD of lives lost to domestic violence in MA in 2019.
- Creation of Programming Guide-
  - Modeled after Culture of Respect best practices. Aides as guide to ensure multiple modalities of programming reaching multiple target audiences consistent with overarching content areas.
- Creation of SAVE Instagram account
  - Aided awareness and outreach of sexual violence information during April Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month- Due to the change to remote learning, initial plans for Sexual Assault Awareness Month were adapted.
  - Denim Day- SAVE organized a campus wide online Denim Day campaign (4/29) to raise awareness of sexual violence and show support towards survivors.
  - Virtual Yards for Yeardeley 5k/LAK- supported and helped to promote WSU Women’s Lacrosse annual Yards for Yeardeley 5k which was moved to a virtual event.



### **Other FY2020 Topics and Tabled Initiatives:**

- Campus Climate Survey- Began to discuss the need for campus climate survey in order to move towards best practice recommendations, as well as to accurately determine campus needs and plan effective programming.
  - Consulted with Everfi on their campus climate survey and resources. Began to compile survey questions based on Everfi survey template.
  - Future Needs:
    - Support from administration in campus climate survey administration.
    - Work with a graduate student or sub group to develop questions and draft IRB proposal.
- Programming Evaluation- Developed an internal survey to poll staff and faculty around expertise, training certifications or programs used or certified in that can be used in campus wide programming. Survey netted 4 respondents. Will need to possibly be revisited.
- Victim Advocate- Per recommendations and support from SAVE group as well as student leaders, continued explored and drafted MOU for campus sexual violence advocate in partnership with Pathways for Change Inc. MOU sent to legal team for feedback. Change to remote learning and subsequent Title IX rule changes have temporarily suspended this initiative. Continues to be a campus need.
- One Love Train the Trainer- Explored as possible training for SAAM. Agreed to table until October 2020.
- Start by Believing and Consent Campaign- These campaigns were intended for on campus events during April and were suspended when the campus transitioned to remote learning in favor of a social media SAAM campaign.

### **FY2021 Planned Initiatives:**

- Aid education and awareness of Title IX changes.
- Update SAVE pocket resource guide as needed to reflect Title IX and campus updates.
- Aid creation and implementation of online/remote sexual violence education and bystander intervention programming including within,
  - Orientation (first year and transfer students)
  - The replacement of It IS My Place programming
  - October Domestic Violence Awareness Month
  - Other educational/programming areas as identified
- Support campus education around trauma informed approaches and impact of trauma on student success and well-being.
- Revisit implementation of sexual violence campus climate survey.
- Consider One Love Train the Trainer opportunities and campus wide bystander intervention programming such as Green Dot.
- Support exploration of relational peer health educators and on campus advocate program.

