

## SIUE Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Task Force

**Mission:** The SIUE Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Task Force is committed to the belief that all people have the right to live free of violence and the fear of violence. This task force provides education about sexual assault and related issues in order to raise awareness and to promote a nonviolent campus community. The task force also supports the rights of survivors of sexual violence through coordination and promotion of effective administrative, legal, and medical responses, including the University's policies and procedures that address these issues. It is comprised of individuals from various University departments and collaborates with community agencies in order to develop, communicate, and implement strategies for increasing sexual assault awareness as well as to increase knowledge about services available to survivors.

The task force is comprised of individuals from various University departments. There is also frequent collaboration with community agencies in order to develop, communicate and implement strategies for sexual violence prevention and to increase the number of resources available to survivors.

**Programming:** Currently, the SIUE Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Task Force holds an annual Sexual Assault Awareness Week in April, which has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States.

The following events have constituted Sexual Assault Awareness Weeks 2010 and 2011:

- The Movies *Precious* and *For Colored Girls* were played in Evergreen Hall Multi-Function Room, followed by discussions hosted by Counseling Services which focused on the portrayal of sexual assault/abuse in these films.
- A Medical and Legal Advocate from Call-For-Help provided an educational presentation about sexual violence; open to all students
- Information booths were located throughout the Goshen Lounge and included representatives from Macoupin County Safe Families, Bridgeway Behavioral Health, the SIUE Police department, Call for Help and Counseling Services.
- SIUE Police Department held a RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) demonstration in the Goshen Lounge.
- Cougar Balance hosted a “White Ribbon Campaign” in the MUC. Students who agreed to wear a white ribbon pledged to “never commit, condone, or remain silent about sexual assault and domestic violence”.
- Cougar Balance and Counseling Services co-hosted a “Clothesline Project” in the Morris University Center. During this activity, students were able to create t-shirts to illustrate the effect sexual assault has had on their lives. The completed t-shirts also served as a visual representation of the impact and prevalence of sexual violence.

· “Chain of Hope” event- students were given the opportunity to design a piece of ribbon portraying how sexual assault has influenced their lives (either directly or indirectly)

Additional ongoing sexual assault awareness and prevention programming include various psychoeducational presentations and monthly awareness events. The task force holds regular meetings throughout the academic year as well.

Please contact Megan Denton or Sydney Greenwalt at 618-650-2842 if you have any questions about the SIUE Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Task Force or if you are interested in becoming involved.