Highlights of The University of Pittsburgh’s Commitment to Addressing Sexual Assault

SPRING 2014

- The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault issued its first report with its first set of action steps and recommendations in April.
- Pitt formed a system-wide Sexual Assault Task Force in May to assess the programs and services the University had in place to serve students, and how we could enhance those programs and services where necessary. Staff members and student leaders from various departments on the Oakland campus, and Student Affairs staff at the regional campuses, continue to meet bi-weekly.
- The Pitt Sexual Assault Task Force recommended that the University change the name of the Office of Sexual Assault Services to the Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education (SHARE) to better reflect the mission of the office, which is both prevention through education and providing services for victims.

SUMMER 2014

- Content for the “For Safety Sake” publication was re-written, with a clearer focus on how victims can access services, whom to contact, and other resources available.
- A new user-friendly Web site was developed to provide comprehensive information about resources available, how to get help, how to report incidents and more. The new site launched prior to the start of the school year in August (www.share.pitt.edu).
- Student Government Board president Michael Nites, and Pitt Task Force chair Marian Vanek, both participated in White House Task Force focus groups and conference calls.

FALL 2014

- Student Affairs senior staff members took a benchmarking trip to the University of Virginia to learn about how UVA is handling this issue since they are one of the schools under investigation by the Office of Civil Rights.
- All new incoming students were required to take an online sexual assault training module, HAVEN, prior to orientation. Pitt achieved a 98% completion rate.

- All new students were required to attend “The Tipping Point” presentation, a very direct presentation about alcohol use, sexual assault, and bystander intervention during New and Transfer Student Orientation.
- Additional Bystander Intervention programs occurred for all residential students the Saturday of orientation week.
- Resident Assistants (RAs) were trained on Title IX reporting requirements, and other issues regarding sexual assault, by the Student Conduct Officer.
- Two special bystander intervention trainings for members of fraternities and sororities were held, including presentations at the Greek Leadership Academy for approximately 50 students, and at Greek 101 for more than 670 new members.
- In August, Bystander intervention training was held for more than 650 international graduate students.
- Several Bystander Intervention programs have been held for student-athletes as part of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics Life Skills Program.
- Training for Department Chairs and Associate Deans on Title IX, Faculty obligations and the complaint process, was conducted by the Office of General Counsel.
The Student Government Board (SGB) passed a resolution showing support of the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education (SHARE) initiatives, and took the “It’s On Us” pledge recommended by the White House Task Force, at its’ September 30 public meeting.

This was covered in detail in the October 1 issue of The Pitt News.

- Student peer educators from Student Health Service and “Let’s R.A.V.E” (Raise Awareness and Victim Empowerment) tabled at the HealthyU Fair, promoting the “It’s On Us” initiative. All student organizations were encouraged to have members sign the pledge.

- Members of the Campus Women’s Organization had a visible presence at “I Love Pitt Day,” promoting the “It’s On Us” pledge, handing out promotional material, and starting the “10,000 chain strong” campaign. Chancellor Gallagher took the pledge at the October 16 event.

“It’s On Us” videos began running on the campus TV screens in early October and have been shown prominently ever since. The Campus Women’s Organization hosted its’ annual “Take Back the Night” event on October 21, and the “It’s On Us” campaign was again prominently featured.

- Another benchmarking trip to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill took place in December. There was also dialogue with Carnegie-Mellon and other schools as well.

- Student Affairs staff members participated in a roundtable discussion on sexual assault prevention and services on the campus radio station on January 21. A recording of the discussion can be heard on the WPTS Web site (wptsradio.org).

- The film “Brave Miss World” was shown in the William Pitt Union. The Hillel Jewish University Center, Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, Campus Women’s Organization and Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity co-sponsored the event, which was attended by approximately 70 students and covered on the front page of The Pitt News.

- Chancellor Gallagher issues a statement to members of the University community reaffirming Pitt’s commitment to preventing sexual assault, and clear instructions and obligations regarding reporting incidents of which faculty or staff may become aware. His message on February 13 also listed resources at share.pitt.edu. The message was widely reported in both on and off campus media.

- All Student Affairs staff received in-depth Title IX and Sexual Assault training from members of the Pitt Police, Office of Title IX, and the Office of General Counsel on February 13.

- Faculty and staff received an e-mail invitation to complete an interactive on-line course to provide them with tools needed to recognize and handle sexual misconduct issues on February 20. Nearly 4,000 individuals completed the module in the first week, and more than 700 additional people had started the training.

- Along with 27 other members of the Association of American Universities (AAU), Pitt students participated in a comprehensive “campus climate” survey in April.

- The Student Health Service graduate students “It’s On Us” paper-link commitment to end sexual assault on campus campaign obtained over 4,000 links. When put together, the length of the chain far exceeds the height of the Cathedral.

- SHARE and it’s “Let’s R.A.V.E” (Raise Awareness and Victim Empowerment) peer educators conducted 40 bystander intervention training sessions to various student groups and staff during the spring.

- The PantherWell’s bystander intervention training program, “Step Up-Step In” was recognized at the Blue Stars, Red Carpet student awards banquet as the “best collaborative program of the year.”

- The Office of Diversity and Inclusion was created by Chancellor Gallagher.
The U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR), the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education, and the University of Pittsburgh collaborated to offer a seminar that focused on the substantive and procedural requirements of postsecondary institutions under Title IX. This day long program included information on what to expect during an OCR Title IX investigation, what constitutes a prompt and equitable response, the standards applicable to OCR’s enforcement of compliance with Title IX, a university’s responsibilities, and recommended tools for prevention and best practices.

SUMMER 2015

- An “Active Bystander Intervention” video was produced by Student Affairs and shown to new students as part of sexual assault prevention training during Orientation.
- The Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) viewed a screening of “The Hunting Ground,” a new film about how universities are handling (or in most cases mishandling) sexual assault.
- Sexual Assault Task Force members received on-site training from Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) “Responding to Disclosures.”
- The SATF Technology Subcommittee identified and evaluated 15 safety apps for possible implementation on campus. They narrowed the consideration to three (3) (Guardly, PanicGuard, Tapshield).

FALL 2015

- The University expanded the use of HAVEN, the sexual assault awareness on-line training module, to all regional campuses, requiring all new incoming students to complete the module prior to the start of the semester.
- All incoming students were required to attend “What You Need to Know” during orientation week. The program addresses campus safety, student conduct, counseling services, and sexual assault, and directly reinforced the prevention messages introduced during the on-line training.
- Sexual Assault Task Force members received on-site training from Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) “Responding to Disclosures.”
- The Life Skills program in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics completed specialized training for student-athletes.
- Katie Pope was hired as Title IX coordinator.
- Also during new student orientation, students were required to attend Bystander Intervention Training, which uses an interactive video to depict real-life situations students may face in college, including potentially dangerous situations where a sexual assault could occur without intervention. The session provides students with tools to recognize potentially dangerous situations, and training for how to help a fellow student in need.
- In response to the AAU Climate Survey, the SATF has created several sub-committees to evaluate key issues; these include:
  - Faculty & staff training and education
  - Harassment
  - Impact of alcohol + other drugs in sexual assault
  - Male-lead groups
  - Junior year “reboot”
  - Serving marginalized populations
  - Increasing awareness of Pitt’s resources and reporting process
- Michelle Welker was appointed the new Coordinator of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education (SHARE) Office on November 16.
- Student Health Service (SHS) entered into a collaboration with Dr. Liz Miller, Chief of Adolescent Medicine at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, on a recent National Institute of Health (NIH) grant award she received.
  - The focus of the study is “Intimate Partner Sexual Violence and Intervention.” As a site participant, all of the SHS clinical staff completed a three-hour training program that focuses on recognizing victims of intimate sexual violence and adopting effective interventions.
- Student organizations hosted several events, such as the Campus Women’s Organization’s “Take Back the Night,” and the SGB Wellness committee’s “Undy 500 Run”— an event designed to increase awareness about sexual violence; and not to excuse sexual assault as a result of one’s clothing or appearance.
- There were additional programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and other campus entities, as part of Sexual Violence Prevention Month (November), including a play titled, “Good Kids,” put on by the Department of Theatre Arts.
- The “Let’s R.A.V.E” student organization continued to provide more intimate educational programming for student groups; students also actively serve on the campus wide Sexual Assault Task Force.
- Title IX Office started offering updated training on reporting and responding to sexual harassment for faculty and staff.
The “It’s On Us” campaign continued during the semester. Peer Health Educators in the Student Health Service challenged the campus community to pledge to **stand up against sexual violence and add their name to a paper chain**, which gathered more than 4,000 signatures and was unveiled at a special event on February 22.

Title IX staff held office hours in various campus locations to increase accessibility.

A new “It’s On Us” video was produced and runs on the 36 TV screens in the William Pitt Union, the Cathedral, and in each residence hall.

In March, Title IX hosted a Resource Fair for students regarding sexual violence resources on Pitt’s campus in the lobby of Towers. SHARE, PAAR, Pitt Police and Title IX were all represented.

A new student organization formed, **Student Engaged in Conversation about Consent and Sexuality (SECCS)**, to develop programs and opportunities for students to communicate about this issue and end sexual assault.

The Title IX and Employee Relations offices began offering new training for departments on harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and reporting to Title IX.

Students from a variety of organizations formed the **Sexual Violence Coalition** in February to meet monthly to coordinate efforts regarding the issue, including representatives from Student Government Board, Campus Women’s Organization, Rainbow Alliance, Graduate Studies, and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) amongst them. Title IX and SHARE representatives attend these meetings. A special program called “Can I Kiss You,” that addresses the importance of obtaining consent, was held on February 15.

Ongoing review and reporting processes were launched for Title IX liaisons at regional campuses to ensure compliance and keep open communication.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS WEEK April 11-15**

During the week of April 11, the SHARE office will host a variety of events to promote education and awareness for **Sexual Assault Awareness Week**. These include:

- A candlelight vigil
- A screening and panel presentation of “The Invisible War” in conjunction with ROTC
- A student led march
- An open self-defense workshop offered by the Pitt Police
- The Red Cup Project hosted by the AAUW as well as programming about the intersection of sexual violence and the LGBTQIA+ community.

This list is not intended to be a complete summary of every program, service, or event that the University has sponsored or implemented to address Title IX. As of March 2016.