

**Violence Free Communities (VFC) Annual Report  
2016-2017  
Michigan State University  
May 1, 2017**

***Violence Free Communities (VFC) is made up of representatives from campus units engaged in efforts to support a campus culture free of relationship violence and sexual misconduct. The committee hosts one open meeting per year inviting members of the campus community. VFC coordinates with the Sexual Violence Advisory Committee to obtain input and feedback from the campus community relating to the campus climate.***

**Summary of Accomplishments from 2016-2017:**

- Completed the implementation and reporting phase of the Bystander Network Grant Project, which funded Bystander training for local bar staff and cab drivers. Members of VFC were invited to present about the project at the Let's End Campus Sexual Assault Summit sponsored by the Governor's Office in September 2016.
- VFC hosted an Open meeting on Thursday November 10, 2016 and invited Campus and Community members to attend.
- VFC representatives met with the Demmer Center to assess and provide feedback regarding a personal safety course.
- Violence Free Communities reviewed and analyzed NCHA and MSU climate survey data to inform collaborative and programmatic initiatives.
- VFC developed and implemented consistent messaging among our respective websites and print materials related to relationship violence and sexual assault.
- Violence Free Communities reviewed options for Campus-wide Prevention Campaigns and selected the National "It's On Us" campaign. VFC worked with campus partners to develop content as well as event programming to launch the MSU "It's On Us" Campaign for the first time.
- VFC wrote and submitted two grant proposals to the Governor's Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program.
  - Bystander Network Proposal – included the development of a second tier Bystander Intervention script, two large-scale training events, as well as a high school toolkit. This proposal was funded.
  - STEP program – included the development of a peer educator mentor program with local high schools. This proposal was not funded.
- VFC representatives served on numerous panels in community outreach and events sponsored by student organizations.

## **VFC Recommendations for 2017-2018:**

**Bolster institutional communications regarding relationship violence and sexual misconduct by creating a Communicator position within the Title IX office to develop and execute strategic communication plans.**

- Communicate regularly and proactively with faculty and staff regarding mandatory reporting, responding to a disclosure, and prevention/awareness programming.
- Work with VFC communications committee to expand and evaluate social media relationships with identity/affinity groups (both students and faculty/staff) to share programming and messaging from VFC.
- Maintain a social media presence.
- Build and enhance relationships with student organizations and individuals who are interested in positively influencing the campus climate by engaging bystanders and allies against relationship violence and sexual misconduct.
- Disseminate talking points and sample language developed by the VFC Communications Committee to faculty, staff and students.
- Evaluate communication channels currently being utilized and recommend new methods of communication to increase reach and effectiveness of institutional communications.

**Conduct a campus-wide needs assessment to examine and understand the need for supplemental prevention programs and assess resource needs to include:**

- Additional specialized workshops for communities of students with higher rates of victimization
- Implementation of second tier learning for upperclassmen (bystander intervention, consent, role of alcohol)
- Male Engagement
- Greek engagement
- Athlete Engagement
- Faculty and Staff Engagement

**VFC will create a Communications Committee to serve as subject matter experts and to assist with positive messaging related to relationship violence and sexual misconduct prevention and service initiatives at MSU. The Communications Committee will:**

- Review existing sample syllabus language in partnership with Faculty Senate and promote inclusion of language on all syllabi and on D2L.
- Develop talking points regarding accessing services and responding to disclosures.
- Review MSU's mandatory reporting guide to identify enhancements to support faculty and staff response to disclosures.

**VFC will expand collaboration with the Center for Gender in a Global Context as well as the Research Consortium on Gender Based Violence to**

- Identify opportunities to connect with faculty and staff on this important issue in partnership with the GenCen.
- Collaborate with researchers in the Consortium to identify pressing institutional research needs to support MSU's Title IX program.

**Move forward with plans to include a Survivor lounge within the new Sexual Assault Program space to ensure safe spaces are available for survivors.**

**Continue the institutional "It's On Us" campaign with a focus on bystander intervention for the 2016-2017 academic year.**

- The campaign should leverage social norming and positive messaging to change culture and behavior.
- Seek ways to engage faculty and staff to distribute responsibility and build ally base.

**Continued institutional participation in the Let's End Campus Sexual Assault Summit. VFC will identify a program to submit for the Campus Sexual Assault Grant that builds on the programs already developed.**