



Gender-based and Sexual Assault Support and Advocacy Services

The University is committed to building a safe campus environment free from gender-based violence and has been working diligently to elevate its efforts to prevent gender-based violence and provide resources to survivors.

The Division of Student Affairs has been working with campus and community partners to identify best practices for addressing gender-based violence at UC. These include making resources more visible to students, increasing staffing for prevention and advocacy, and strengthening our community partnerships. We know this issue is important to the campus and to the Greater Cincinnati community. We want to share information about the work happening throughout the year, discuss processes of moving forward, put out a call for campus wide assistance in our collective endeavors, and remind our community about resources available both on and off campus.

- **Campus Advocate** – The Division of Student Affairs has hired Karen Mendenhall, LICSW-S, who will serve as Interim Advocate at UC. Ms. Mendenhall will provide confidential, comprehensive advocacy services including explaining options for reporting incidents, assisting survivors who seek interim measures, providing referral information for health and wellness services, and accompanying students through Title IX and UCPD processes. Ms. Mendenhall can be found in 559 Steger Student Life Center on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s from 9am to 5pm. UC will be recruiting a full-time, confidential campus advocate in the coming weeks.
- **Peer Advocacy** – UC is committed to student advocacy to provide support to survivors of gender-based violence. Maria Castro Reece, a graduate assistant in the Women’s Center, will begin recruiting students who have an interest in building a peer advocacy program, which will begin Fall 2016. Ms. Castro Reece has previously served in a peer advocacy role at Ohio University. To learn more about how to get involved, please contact Ms. Castro Reece via email at castromc@mail.uc.edu.
- **Bystander Intervention & Peer Education** - The Student Wellness Center will be recruiting a small group of peer educators who will focus on gender-based violence prevention. The students will help with awareness and prevention programming on campus, as well as with implementing the new bystander intervention program that will launch Fall 2016. More information about this opportunity will be available to students in the coming weeks.
- **Women’s Center** – The Women’s Center has recently hired an assistant director and is currently searching for two program coordinators to support new initiatives for women’s leadership and to expand conversations about gender and gender inequalities. Dr. Angela Fitzpatrick, who joined UC as Director of the Women’s Center in October 2015, has been part of the ongoing efforts to rebuild advocacy at UC.

- **CAPS** – Through the ARISE Program, Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) continues to offer 24-hour survivor hotline (513-556-0648), free emergent care, individual & group psychotherapy, and psychiatric services to UC survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. For more information, click here: <http://www.uc.edu/counseling>
- **Title IX** - Jyl Shaffer, UC's Title IX Coordinator since October 2014 departed UC on March 18, to accept a position at Montana State University. To ensure no gaps of service to our UC community regarding Title IX, Karla Phillips has been appointed Interim Title IX Coordinator. Karla serves the institution as the Assistant Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity & Access. If you have a Title IX question or concern, please call 556-3349 or email titleix@uc.edu. If you wish to make a report, please go to the Title IX site at <http://www.uc.edu/titleix.html> and click on "Make a Report" in the left column.
- **Community Partnerships** – UC is strengthening its partnerships with community organizations such as the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) and Women Helping Women. In November, Katie Hanna, Executive Director of OAESV, visited with stakeholders across campus to determine the next best practices for violence prevention and advocacy at UC. Leaders from the Division of Student Affairs continue to work with Ms. Hanna to formulate next steps. In addition, Vice President Debra Merchant is currently working with Kristin Shrimplin, Executive Director of Women Helping Women to formalize a partnership that will maximize resources available to survivors at UC. Finally, diverse representatives from UC have been active participants in the Cincinnati Task Force to Reduce Campus Gender-Based Violence, working with partners from around the city to identify effective prevention strategies and develop resources for survivors.
- **Changing Campus Culture** – The Office of UC Diversity and Inclusion under the direction of Dr. Bleuzette Marshall, Chief Diversity Officer, assumed responsibility for Title IX and gender-based violence education and prevention in January 2016. She is working with students, faculty, staff, and community partners to identify and streamline UC's strategies for changing campus culture and ending gender-based violence.

RESOURCES: Resources continue to be available for you or someone you may know who has been affected by gender-based violence including harassment, intimate partner violence, rape, and stalking.

24 hour hotlines – These options have been in continuous operation:

- Counseling & Psychological Services: 513-556-0648 (free, confidential)
- Women Helping Women: 513-381-5610 (free, confidential)