

**PARENTS AND FAMILY ASSOCIATION
GRANT PROPOSAL**

**Program Title:
Women's Resource Center: Safety and Empowerment**

**Submitted by:
Associated Students of the University of Arizona (ASUA)**

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OVERVIEW OF ASUA'S WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER:

ASUA's Women's Resource Center is dedicated to increasing awareness of issues that impact women on the UA campus, in the broader Tucson community, and in our increasingly globalized world. Through a variety of programs and services, we seek to serve individual women in need, while also working to eradicate the broader social and institutional barriers that continue to impact women's lives.

PROPOSAL ABSTRACT

The Women's Resource Center seeks to expand current programming that enriches women's lives by addressing issues relating to safety and empowerment. We will provide a year's worth of services and outreach in order to increase student safety as well as the visibility and size of the Center.

STATEMENT OF NEED

The vast majority of major U.S. universities have a sizeable and well-established Women's Center. Among Pac 10 schools, this trend is also observable. To remain academically and institutionally competitive, the University of Arizona needs a more visible and competent Center. In 2005-2006, UA enrolled 37,036 students. The majority, 53.14%, were female. To put this in perspective, the 1,000 African American students on campus comprise just 2.8% of the student body and have a well-organized, resourceful African American Student Affairs center with academic support, leadership development, and many programs throughout the year. The vast differences in these percentages should not suggest that the AASA is not needed, but rather, that women students are also in dire need of greater support.

Oppression of women continues to exist throughout our world, and through recent events on our campus, we are reminded that sexual assault remains a major problem. On April 12th, a woman was sexually assaulted by a stranger in the Manzanita-Mohave Residence Hall on the UA campus. This incident has led to a frightened and angry buzz among women students, who many of whom no longer feel safe walking around campus. While the trauma of this type of assault should not be dismissed, stranger rapes are statistically rare, as most victims of sexual assault know their perpetrators. This means that while stranger-rapes elicit broad media coverage, most rapes go unreported—the perpetrators unpunished and the victims un-served. According to Mary Koss, a University of Arizona Regent Scholar and internationally renowned expert on sexual assault, 1 in every 4 college-aged women are raped¹. Although this study was conducted two decades ago, the numbers have sadly remained constant in all subsequent studies.

Clearly these issues do not stop at the border of our campus; through the recent killings at Virginia Tech, women students across the nation have begun verbalizing feelings of a general lack of safety. This is not due simply to a single school shooting, but more generally can be described by the term "sexual terrorism," or the constant fear of rape,

¹ Koss, M.P., Gidycz C.J. and Wisniewski, N. "The Scope of Rape: Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Aggression and Victimization Among a National Sample of Students in Higher Education. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 55 (1987): 162-70.

sexual assault, and even walking alone at night. Because 25% of college-aged women experience sexual assault, almost all women have either been victimized, or know friends, sisters, or classmates that have experienced this trauma. All women understand the culturally pervasive and constant threat of sexual assault, whether or not it has been individually experienced. This begins to explain one dimension of the disempowerment of women at a societal level.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Women's safety and empowerment must be promoted on our campus and in our communities. Thanks to the Parents and Family Association Grant in spring 2007, the Women's Resource Center has been able to begin safety programming at the University of Arizona with self-defense workshops and an upcoming Take Back the Night rally. However, the Center has determined a need to expand programming to have an immediate impact on the safety of female students on campus through a Safe Walk Program.

The Safe Walk Program builds on the idea of "safety in numbers" and would have two students available every weeknight to walk female students from building to building or from class to their car. Women's Resource Center interns would be "on-call" from 6:30-10:30pm, Monday through Friday. The vision for the program includes 8 regular students who divide the Safe Walk Program time during the school year and receive a stipend of \$500 each per semester. Other materials necessary for the program are flashlights and a cell phone for communication between students, and, if needed, Campus Police.

According to ASUA's Safe Ride Director Brittany Smith, a student will wait an average of twenty-five minutes (ten minutes to get through on the phone, five minutes on hold, and ten minutes for the car) before a Safe Ride driver will arrive. For students that need a ride off-campus, it is often worth the wait. But for students that just want to get from one location on campus to another, they often decide to walk alone rather than wait twenty-five minutes. In response to this Safe Walk proposal, Brittany Smith stated, "I bet if there was a different option in addition to Safe Ride, especially for on-campus security, students would use it."

A Safe Walk program is successfully run at many universities throughout the country². While this program would provide a necessary service to students, it would also greatly increase the visibility of the Women's Resource Center. In addition to Safe Walk, we will also increase the number of everyday safety tools for campus women. Through promoting the Women's Resource Center, the Safe Walk program, and our ongoing self-defense classes, we will distribute 4,000 key chains that are both flashlights and whistles to female students during our outreach events. Furthermore, we will equip women with easily accessible pepper spray in the event that they are subject to assault.

In a recent conversation with Rebecca Levy, a Residence Hall director, she described that there is a general feeling of fear around sexual assault, as several threats of assault have

² As an example, see Simon Fraser University in California.

already occurred this semester. She explained the benefit to letting freshman know about the threat of assault on campus, resources for preventing it, and when this doesn't work, resources to help students cope with the aftermath of assault. She stated that the students in the dorms really responded to getting the whistles and flashlight keychains in the past. Because the Women's Resource Center information will be printed on both the keychains and pepper spray, this will also serve the additional function of promotion of the Center, our services, and broader campus and community resources.

Thus, the focus of this project is not only to provide a year's worth of necessary safety programming, but also to increase overall involvement with and knowledge of the WRC. Furthermore, we will assess the effectiveness of these programs and services, and learn from women students what additional issues they need addressed to feel more safe and empowered on this campus and in their lives.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- ✓ Increase student knowledge of the WRC
- ✓ Increase student involvement with the WRC
- ✓ Increase visibility of WRC within the broader Tucson community
- ✓ Access to everyday tools for personal safety
- ✓ A perception of greater safety on campus and in the community

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- ✓ Increase awareness of campus and community resources
- ✓ Create a safer campus environment for all students
- ✓ Decrease the chances for attack of people on campus
- ✓ Increase awareness of potential threats to student safety on campus
- ✓ Increase students' knowledge of the WRC as a resource for safety and empowerment
- ✓ Gain quantitative and qualitative understanding of how programs and services impact students

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

In order to assess the impact of WRC programming and services, post evaluations and comparative evaluations will both be utilized. During the course of the Fall 2007 semester, a statistically significant number of random students will be surveyed to learn of their current knowledge of the Women's Resource Center. At the end of the Spring 2008 semester, the process will be repeated to see if the percentages of students

acquainted or involved with the WRC have increased. Additionally, program participants will complete post evaluations to determine the relative effectiveness of programming and services. Lastly, students associated with the Center will also be compared to the general student body in terms of their perception of safety on campus and well as overall experiences with the university, academic successes, and more general satisfaction with their lives.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST
SAFE WALK	Student stipends to run "Safe Walk" program (\$500 stipend/semester for 8 student interns X 2 semesters)	\$8000
SAFE WALK MATERIALS	Flashlights for students on-call for Safe Walk	\$100
SAFE WALK COMMUNICATION	Cell phone for students on call for safe walk (\$75/mo X 12 mo contract)	\$900
MARKETING	Advertising and marketing to students and community about the Safe Walk Program	\$1,200
SAFETY TOOLS	Flashlight/whistle keychains (4,000 keychains X \$1 + cost of shipping and cost of printing the WRC name on each keychain)	\$4,200
	Pepper Spray (1,000 X \$2 each—this low price is only available through a connection that Safe Ride has)	\$2,000
Total Budget Requested		\$16,400

Potential Funding Sources:

- National, State and Local Women's Organizations (E.G. Third Wave Foundation)
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Corporate Support (E.G. Ikon Grant, Xerox Grant)
- Graduate and Professional Student Council

Additionally, the WRC was granted just over a \$6,000 budget for the 2007-2008 school year through ASUA's Programs and Services Branch. We also brought in approximately \$2,000 in grants in the spring in addition to the Parents and Family Association Grant that is supporting our current safety programming. Nonetheless, this amount of money is insufficient to meet the needs of the approximately 20,000 female students on campus. Thank you for your time and consideration of our proposal, and your commitment to create a safe campus community where young women can become empowered leaders!