“It’s On Us”
“Take a Stand”

Educational Module for Sexual Misconduct Prevention

R.P.I. Greek Leadership Summit
February 7, 2015
Put some history timeline for this subject

- 2011
- 2013 VAWA
- 2014 Reporting and education Requirements need to meet the VAWA

- Some of the States changing laws for Consent

- Etc – the Chronicler of Higher Ed has a way to summarize this
It’s On Us PSA by US Govt.

- It’s on Us:
  - To **recognize** that non-consensual sex is sexual assault.
  - To **identify** situations in which sexual assault may occur.
  - To **intervene** in situations where consent has not or cannot be given.
  - To **create** an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

From: [itsonus.org](http://itsonus.org)
It’s On Us Tips

1. Talk to your friends honestly and openly about sexual assault.
2. Don’t just be a bystander - if you see something, intervene in any way you can.
3. Trust your gut. If something looks like it might be a bad situation, it probably is.
4. Be direct. Ask someone who looks like they may need help if they’re okay.
5. Get someone to help you if you see something - enlist a friend, RA, bartender, or host to help step in.
6. Keep an eye on someone who has had too much to drink.
7. If you see someone who is too intoxicated to consent, enlist their friends to help them leave safely.

From: itsonus.org
It’s On Us Tips

8. Recognize the potential danger of someone who talks about planning to target another person at a party.
9. Be aware if someone is deliberately trying to intoxicate, isolate, or corner someone else.
10. Get in the way by creating a distraction, drawing attention to the situation, or separating them.
11. Understand that if someone does not or cannot consent to sex, it’s rape.
12. Never blame the victim
13. If you are a victim or survivor, or helping someone in that situation go to https://www.notalone.gov/ to get the resources and information you need. You can also call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE

From: itsonus.org
Bystander Behavior: Barriers to Intervening

- Social Influence: *Bad, but not so bad; peers*
- Fear of Embarrassment: *Could I be wrong?*
- Diffusion of Responsibility: *Someone else will act*
- Fear of Retaliation: *Don’t want to get in trouble*
- Pluralistic Ignorance: *Perception is not reality*

Transforming Values Into Action

http://www.beck-company.com/RESPONSE_ABILITY_-_a_project_of_Beck___CO__Corporate_Video_Production_Services.html
California State Law Definition

Affirmative Consent

- Section 1, Section 67386 (1) An affirmative consent standard in the determination of whether consent was given by both parties to sexual activity. **“Affirmative consent” means affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity.** It is the responsibility of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of the other or others to engage in the sexual activity. **Lack of protest or resistance does not mean consent, nor does silence mean consent.** Affirmative consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual activity and can be revoked at any time. The existence of a dating relationship between the persons involved, or the fact of past sexual relations between them, should never by itself be assumed to be an indicator of consent.
What is Consent?

- Consent is defined as a positive, unambiguous and voluntary agreement to engage in specific sexual activity throughout a sexual encounter.
  - Consent cannot be inferred from the absence of a “no”; a clear “yes”, verbal or otherwise, is necessary.
  - Consent to some sexual acts does not imply consent to others, nor does past consent to a given act imply present or future consent.
  - Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual encounter and can be revoked at any time.
  - Consent cannot be obtained by threat, coercion or force. Agreement under such circumstances does not constitute consent.
Why is Consent Important?

- Shows that you have respect for both yourself and your partner.
- Enhances communication, respect, and honesty, which make sex and relationships better.
- Ability to know and be able to communicate the type of sexual relationship you want.
- Knowing how to protect yourself and your partner against STIs and pregnancy.
- Opportunity to acknowledge that you and your partner(s) have sexual needs and desires.
- Identify your personal beliefs and values and respecting your partner’s personal beliefs and values.
- Builds confidence and self-esteem.
- Challenges stereotypes that rape is a women’s issue.
- Challenges sexism and traditional views on gender and sexuality.
- Empowers people to have positive views on sex and sexuality and eliminates the entitlement that one partner might feel over another. Neither your body nor your sexuality belong to someone else.

http://fhsi.jrfco.com/what-is-consent.html
How do You Know Consent is Given?

- The only way to know for sure if someone has given consent is if they tell you.
  - It’s not always easy to let people know that you are not happy about something.
  - Sometimes the person you’re with might look like they are happy doing something, but inside they are not.
  - They might not know what to say or how to tell you that they are uncomfortable.
- One of the best ways to determine if someone is uncomfortable with any situation, especially with a sexual one, is to simply ask.
- Here are some examples of the questions you might ask:
  - Is there anything you don’t want to do?
  - Are you comfortable?
  - Do you want to stop?
  - Do you want to go further?
What is CONSENT?
VAWA/Clery Act Training Requirements

- Implementation of Changes to the Clery Act made by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA)

- Dr. Sam’s October letter to Greeks on behalf of Coalition for Sexual Misconduct Prevention
  - Alex Blais ([fitza@rpi.edu](mailto:fitza@rpi.edu), 518-276-2231) is the contact for mandated education programs

- JR Favor Insurance Co.: Fraternity Health and Safety Initiative (FHSI)
  - A Greek insurer taking on educational campaign

- Federal Govt. mandates on Clery Act
  - More campus crime reporting and judicial process changes
  - Campus Clarity: Talk about It Campaign ([https://home.campusclarity.com/](https://home.campusclarity.com/))
  - Downloadable workshops and posters
## Rensselaer Sexual Assault Prevention Education Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Potential Configurations</th>
<th>Example</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of Sexual Assault &amp; related issues facilitated by staff</td>
<td>Your group will schedule a 1-2 hour discussion session that will center around a prompt (ex. current events, video, etc.) and build on conversations held 2013-2014. Mixed gender sessions are encouraged.</td>
<td>• House/team on its own at one time</td>
<td>• Men’s Basketball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management/ Bystander Intervention Skills Training facilitated by staff</td>
<td>Your group will participate in a skills-based training (Athletes: this will be different from the BI training all freshmen and transfers take)</td>
<td>• House/team splits up and partners with another group, completing this in a few different sessions in order to accommodate everyone</td>
<td>• Phi Tau &amp; Alpha Phi</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• House/team on its own at one time</td>
<td>Men’s Lacrosse &amp; Baseball</td>
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<td>• House/team splits up and partners with another group, completing this in a few different sessions in order to accommodate everyone</td>
<td>• Pi Beta Phi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Event*</td>
<td>Your group will attend a scheduled large campus event regarding Sexual Assault Prevention Time &amp; Date TBA</td>
<td>• Full house/team attends • Portion of house/team attends and others participate in a different option (may be used on a case by case basis if individuals are unable to attend one of the above sessions)</td>
<td>• Men’s &amp; Women’s Swimming</td>
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<td>• 3 Alpha Phi sisters had class during the discussion so they are attending the campus event instead</td>
<td>Field Hockey &amp; Softball</td>
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Greek Leadership Summit - February 7, 2015
**Rensselaer Sexual Assault Prevention Education Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Community Service/Awareness Raising*</th>
<th>Your group will engage in a community service/awareness opportunity related of its choice related to sexual assault. You will submit a proposal to Alex Blais detailing how your event/campaign/etc. will:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1. Incorporate and education/prevention element with bystander intervention themes</td>
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<td>2. Utilize social media</td>
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<td>3. Have a broad and lasting impact on RPI students/campus</td>
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<td>This may or may not be centered around a pre-existing community event such as Take Back the Night, Walk a Mile In Her Shoes, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Individual house/team</td>
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<td>• Two houses/teams together</td>
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</tbody>
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|                                      | • Women’s Basketball |
|                                      | • Theta Chi & Football |

*First come, first served. Talk with Alex Blais in Student Health for more information. Fitz@rpi.edu or (518) 276-2231
JR Favor Fraternity Health & Safety Initiative

- Formed Fall 2014 with Advisory Panel and Consultant Staff
- Eight partner Fraternities
  - Four at R. P.I. – ΔΧΑ, ΠΚΑ, ΣΑΕ, ΣΧ
- Focus Areas
  - Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Prevention
  - Hazing Prevention / Intervention
  - Sexual Misconduct Prevention
    - Taking a Stand
    - It’s On Us
- Regional Traveling Consultants are presenting during their visits
  - Could also leverage the FHSI speakers for your chapter & campus
Safety Pyramid
The Risk Pyramid

Forms of Sexual Conduct Happen Daily

- Roofie
- Rape
- Drunken Random Hookup Sex
- Blurred Sensibilities Sex
- Friendly Consensual Conduct
- Long Term Monogamous Relations

Highest Likelihood, Lowest Consequence

Highest Consequence, Lowest Likelihood
RPI Resources?

- Student Health Center
- Coalition?
- Student Handbook
- Policies
- Alex Blais, educator
- Cary Drescher