

I'M HERE FOR YOU

About

This semesterly newsletter is intended for I'm Here For You sticker holders, Community Coalition on Gender-Based Violence members, and advocates. Each semester this newsletter will highlight happenings on campus related to gender-based violence, updated information regarding applicable laws, and links to articles of related interest.

Contact Robin Berman at rberman1@luc.edu for more information.

MEET THE ADVOCACY VOLUNTEERS EVENT

The 11 Advocacy Volunteers who staff the Sexual Assault Advocacy Line 24 hours over the weekends held two tabling events to help the Loyola community get to

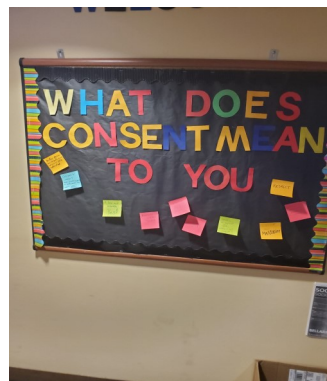


know them and to find out more about

Advocacy services. They tabled at both Water Tower and Lake Shore campuses, and got to meet and engage with over 70 students to demystify the services they provide.

RES LIFE CONSENT 101

At the beginning of this semester, the Wellness Center rolled out a new consent curriculum, in partnership with Residence Life. Consent 101, a fully fleshed-out curriculum and facilitation guide created by the Advocacy Team, is now a required component of the residential curriculum.



Consent 101 is a train-the-trainer model, and is meant to be facilitated by RA's for their residents. It consists of 11 consent skill-building activities, with an accompanying guide on how to facilitate each activity. Each RA can pick from all the activities to create an hour of consent programming for their residents.

At the beginning of the

year, the Advocacy Team led a training at an RA in-service to train them on the curriculum and activities. RA's facilitated their programming throughout the fall, and got creative about how to do so. Some RA's created a carnival-like event, where residents filtered through one activity station at a time. Some RA's created a podcast to get some of their points about consent across and reach students who were not able to be physically present for their programs.

In all, 314 residents came to 13 different programs that were hosted in 11 different residence halls.

Upon assessment of the programs, 99% of residents who responded could identify situations that would require consent, 96% could identify an example of consent, and all could list ways someone could



ask for consent.

The Wellness Center and Residence Life will continue this partnership and work together to update and improve upon Consent 101 so that it can be just as successful in the upcoming academic year.



JUST WHAT IS THE OFFICE FOR EQUITY & COMPLIANCE ... REALLY?

BY TIM LOVE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TITLE IX COORDINATOR

Since January of 2019, there have been a handful of emails and some sparse media coverage about the launch of Loyola University Chicago's Office for [Equity & Compliance](#) (OEC). But as a relatively new office, we are aware that there are still plenty of members of our community who are unsure exactly how the OEC fits into the landscape of anti-discrimination and non-violence work happening at Loyola. If this includes you, then don't worry! Our entire [mission statement](#) can be found on our website (www.luc.edu/equity), but here are three key ideas to help explain who we are and what we do:

1. **"equitable and person-centered...impartial"** It is important to understand that the OEC is not an advocacy-oriented office, so

we describe ourselves as "person-centered" rather than "survivor-centered" or "victim-centered." Though we are unequivocally opposed to sexual violence and injustice – and work against both every day – our unique role is to ensure an equitable and fair process for both parties in every case. The necessity of impartiality can be frustrating or confusing, but it is both required by law and essential to our mission.

2. **"...reliable"** This often overlooked word is at the heart of what we do. To us, a reliable investigation is one that was done professionally and fairly, so that it maximizes the likelihood of arriving at the "right" outcome. A reliable process affords the best opportunity for a decision to be made on the merits of the individual case (rather than stereotypes or generalizations) and ensures fair dealings with both accuser and accused.

3. **"...discrimination and sexual misconduct"** Another thing to note – we are not just the "Title IX Office."

While we do have primary responsibility for coordinating [Title IX](#) compliance (which prohibits discrimination based on sex), we have been intentionally tasked with the expanded scope of addressing reports of discrimination/misconduct based on [other protected classes](#) as well.

If you or someone you know is considering seeking support from the OEC, but is unsure or has questions about doing so, please reach out by phone (773-508-7766), email (equity@luc.edu), or in person (Granada Center, Suite 403). If you would prefer to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual or gender-based misconduct, please consider consulting first with the [Advocacy Services](#) of the Wellness Center, as their representatives are also familiar with University's policies and resources, and can help you make an informed choice before proceeding.

I hope this is a helpful introduction to the unique role and focus of Loyola's Office for Equity & Compliance. Our staff are committed to working towards a Loyola that is free from discrimination and sexual misconduct of all kinds, and we will continue delivering our services with care and professionalism towards this end.

LOYOLA DEBUTS SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCACY CLASS

New this year is a course for credit called Sexual Assault Advocacy. Offered in the spring, Assistant Director of Health Promotion, Mira Krivoshey will be teaching this Women's and Gender Studies class. Whereas previously, student volunteer advocates received training through Resilience, our partner and member of the Community Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, students now will receive the Illinois-mandated training at Loyola. The course will provide 40 hours of training on sexual assault in compliance with the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) Standards for every volunteer who provides victim services. Covered topics include the history of the anti-rape movement, medical and legal advocacy, and crisis intervention skills. The 20 enrolled students will also be expected to read relevant and seminal research on these topics, complete role plays and reflection papers, and compile a final research proposal.

CHANGE GROWS TO LARGEST SIZE YET

This year, CHANGE, a Wellness Center-sponsored student group focusing on gender-based violence programming, grew to the largest size the group has ever been. CHANGE welcomed 14 new members, who went through an all-day training to join the 12 returning members as CHANGE-makers.

The whole group immediately got to work planning an event called, "Know My Name? Considerations of

Sharing Your Survivor Story." This event used sexual assault survivor Chanel Miller's recent decision to reveal her identity through releasing a memoir as a case study to explore the pros and cons that survivors navigate in choosing whether or not to share their stories, with whom, and when. The discussion and Q and A focused on considerations about end goals, platforms for sharing, safety, privacy, emotional well-being, and legal liability. There were 37 attendees at this event, and the first 15 received a free copy of Chanel Miller's new book.

