

NASPA

Parent and Family Relations Knowledge Community Newsletter

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By Branka Kristic, Director of Parent and Family Programs, Hofstra University and Vice President of Association of Higher Education Parent/Family Programs Professionals

Sexual Violence Prevention and Families

Involving families in the campus discussions about preventing sexual violence is necessary. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's publication *Preventing sexual violence on college campuses: Lessons from research and practice* (2014. Retrieved at <https://www.notalone.gov/schools/>) mentions as a principle of effective prevention, "Build on or support positive relationships: Prevention approaches that build on or foster positive relationships between students and their peers, families or communities may have better outcomes."

Maria Testa's study at University of Buffalo proved that "Parent Based Intervention, either standard or enhanced, was associated with lower incidence of incapacitated rape in the first year of college relative to controls" (Testa, 2010). That study was based on Rob Turrisi's research at Penn State on involving parents in reducing alcohol abuse on campus.

The parent and family programs in higher education may do the following:

- Use your parent board (parent council, parent advisory board) or parent volunteers as focus groups to listen and assess your parent and family needs and questions in regard to Title IX issues.
- Use your publications, electronic or printed, to address sexual violence prevention efforts and offer advice to parents on how to talk with their students about the topic.
- Include Title IX topics in your parent and family handbook distributed to new families. The article must mention:
 - Your institution's policies prohibiting discriminatory harassment, relationship violence and sexual misconduct (for complaints against students as well as other members of your institution's community, such as faculty).
 - Where online and on campus your students can find resources and contact information for your Title IX Coordinator.
 - Your institution's student programs and services in sexual violence prevention.
 - Your advice to parents and families on how to speak with their students about the sensitive topic of sexual violence, the meaning of consent, the bystander intervention, and the ways families can be engaged on your campus. (Please see a sample text from Hofstra University's Parent and Family Handbook and resources in the Attachments section below.)
- Inform families about your sexual violence prevention efforts during the parent and family orientation program. Offer families tips on how to talk with their students.

ATTACHMENT I

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
PARENT AND FAMILY HANDBOOK 2016-17

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, SEXUAL VIOLENCE: HOFSTRA TAKES PREVENTION SERIOUSLY

While the majority of students on our campus are careful to not engage in risky behaviors, we are of the mind that even one negative student experience is one too many. Hofstra is a caring and engaged community that considers alcohol and drug abuse, as well as sexual violence, an important concern for all of us. We also know that parents and families can help prevent risky and damaging behaviors and incidents through regular communication with their student(s).

Title IX

Integral to Hofstra fulfilling its mission is a commitment to a clear understanding of interpersonal respect -- ensuring that members of our community are not subjected to sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or discriminatory harassment on the basis of sex or gender. Hofstra has policies, procedures and resources to prevent and address these issues, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a federal civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in federally-funded education programs and activities. Policies include the *Student Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Harassment, Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (located in the Guide to Pride)*, for complaints against students, and the *Hofstra University Harassment Policy* for complaints against other members of the University community.

We want students at Hofstra to be aware of their rights under the *Students' Bill of Rights – as articulated by New York State law – as* these rights relate to offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault. Our campus Title IX Coordinator oversees the Hofstra's response to reports and complaints of sexual harassment, relationship violence, and sexual misconduct, as well as addressing any patterns or systemic problems that may occur. Our Title IX Coordinator, Lara Nochomovitz, is also available to meet with students to discuss Hofstra's policies related to these important issues of safety and prevention. She may be reached at: TitleIXCoordinator@hofstra.edu or (516) 463-5841. Links to support resources and Hofstra's policies, including the Student Bill of Rights, are available at hofstra.edu/title-ix.

Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Sexual Violence

The Dean of Students works closely with several of its departments to coordinate education for students in the area of prevention and awareness and actively responds to student issues in this area in a variety of ways, starting with new students' arrival to Hofstra. Our students learn about Hofstra's community standards and policies as early as New Student Orientation. In addition, all students – residential and commuting -- complete or attend the following programs:

1. Prior to coming to campus, incoming first-year and transfer students must complete the online education sessions about the hazards of alcohol and drug abuse, as well as about safe and healthy relationships and sexual violence prevention, through *CampusClarity*.
2. During summer orientations and Welcome Week, all students also receive in person training about sexual assault, stalking, dating and domestic violence prevention.
3. All student leaders, athletes, and resident advisors, are offered periodic trainings on preventing sexual assault, stalking, dating and domestic violence.
4. Residential students attend the floor meetings with Resident Assistants and Resident Directors where the policies and safe behaviors are addressed and reinforced.

5. Commuting and residential students attend campus events, including *Take Back the Night* and those hosted by the *It's On Us* committee, that help raise awareness and empower students to act positively and become contributing members of our campus community.
6. Each year, our Student Advocacy and Prevention Awareness staff, Title IX Coordinator, the *It's On Us* Committee, and Office of Student Leadership and Engagement staff organize the following awareness weeks:
 - a. *Domestic Violence Awareness Week*. Past programs included speaker Tim Mousseau, a survivor of sexual assault, *The Clothesline Project*, *Purple Hearts: Take a Pledge of Non-Violence*, film screenings, *Gentlemen 101 Presented by Phi Delta Theta*, *Love Shouldn't Hurt Campaign*, and a self-defense course.
 - b. Fall and Spring *It's On Us* National Weeks of Action. Past programs included guest speakers from the Long Island Safe Center, film screenings, workshops that teach survivors about self-care, and activities to help students understand sexual consent.
7. Hofstra students are invited to join one of the student clubs or organizations on campus (or form one of their own), such as *It's On Us*, and the bystander intervention education group *Be Kind. Step Up!*
8. All students receive a copy of the *Guide to Pride* annually which includes the *Student Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Harassment, Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct*.

Any student interested in joining the campus conversation and efforts about preventing sexual misconduct and/or supporting survivors, is encouraged to get involved. They should contact Hofstra's Director of Student Advocacy and Prevention Awareness Claudia Andrade, Student Center 240C, StudentAdvocacy@hofstra.edu.

How do I Talk with My Student about Sexual Violence?

Hofstra family members, you can help by talking with your students about alcohol and drugs and sexual violence prevention before they attend Hofstra – and during their years on campus. You may begin by talking about your own knowledge of experiences with alcohol, drugs, and sexuality -- especially what your expectations are and about what consent means to you and how campus and the law defines it. Engaging your own student in this important conversation can be crucial as they make the adjustment to life at college. As a recent White House Task Force report noted, including the community in these conversations is essential to all prevention efforts (see *Not Alone: The first report of the White House Task Force to protect students from sexual assault* (2014) at notalone.gov). You, families, are a part of that community.

In addition, here are additional tips to consider as you engage with your student about prevention:

- Listen. Ask your student a question and be willing to patiently listen. Some suggested questions: "How does heavy drinking influence human behavior?", "What can you do to prevent sexual assault?", "How do you define affirmative consent?"
- Be informed. Read newspaper articles, and books; watch online resources and videos – there are many sources of good information on this critical topic. Hofstra's Title IX Coordinator assembled an excellent list of resources at hofstra.edu/title-ix (Menu>Resource Library). Read those articles and watch those videos – and share them with your student.
- Together with your student, read Hofstra's policies prohibiting sexual misconduct (hofstra.edu/title-ix). Encourage them to engage in the prevention programs on Hofstra's campus mentioned above.

Thank you, families, for being a part of this important conversation about prevention and safety. Your influence with your student is more valued than you might imagine – and is an effective partnership with the efforts and education that is happening here at Hofstra.

ATTACHMENT II

RESOURCES

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Title IX Q&A. 2014. www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf

Hofstra University Resources

Title IX resource page: hofstra.edu/title-ix

Student Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Harassment, Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct: hofstra.edu/sexualmisconduct

Student Bill of Rights: hofstra.edu/studentaffairs/students-bill-of-rights.html

Used during orientation for discussion:

It's On Us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYotKWkxsgc>

Tea Consent: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoWLWS4-kU>

Bystander Intervention Story: Who Are You? www.whoareyou.co.nz + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUj2OHLAG3w>