



04/17/06

To: All Students

From: UCI Student Affairs

Subject: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The month of April has been nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. As a part of this initiative to raise awareness and solidarity around the prevention of sexual violence, UC Irvine's Campus Assault Resources and Education (CARE), through the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Counseling and Health Services, has organized a series of events throughout the month of April. I encourage each member of the campus community to show support and to learn more about these issues by attending one or all of these events.

The Clothesline Project

On display in Gateway Commons on April 17th, 18th, and 19th, the Clothesline Project is a participatory and visual exhibit designed to break the silence surrounding sexual violence and to illustrate its impact. The exhibit is comprised of T-shirts designed by survivors of violence and their loved ones. Participants walk through the rows of T-shirts to bear witness to these tragedies. The project focuses on providing healing for survivors of violence, educating the public, and preventing violence.

Denim Day

On April 19th, faculty, staff and students are urged to wear jeans to participate in Denim Day 2006. The campaign began as part of an international protest of an Italian High Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim was wearing jeans. The judgment sparked a worldwide outcry from those who understand coercion, threats and violence go along with the act of rape.

UC Irvine's 9th Annual Take Back the Night

Also on April 19th, CARE and the UCI Gender Education Series will host the event, featuring a message from Community Service Program, Inc.'s Dawn Foor followed by a candlelight vigil and march to raise awareness about sexual violence and to honor survivors. Following the march, participants journey through stations with visual displays and/or artistic performances addressing various aspects of sexual violence. The evening will conclude with a Speak-Out event where survivors can tell their stories and share their messages with others.

Red Flag Project

On the 20th and 21st of April, the month will conclude with the Red Flag Project. On the grass by the UCI flag poles, 2,958 flags will be staked into the ground to demonstrate the number of women at UC Irvine that are, according to national statistics, likely to become the victims of attempted or completed sexual assault before graduation.

UCI's CARE program shares the view of the World Health Organization that sexual violence is a serious health problem that profoundly affects the physical, emotional, mental and social well being of victims. With leadership and commitment, we can work together to create solutions to the enormous problem of sexual violence, including unhealthy and unsafe relationships. I urge you to show your support and awareness by participating in one of these important April events.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Counseling and Health Services