

Arkansas Public Higher Education Status Report for Sexual Assault Prevention on Campus

Academic Year 2017-18



Academic Affairs

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Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street, Suite 400 Little Rock, AR 72201

ANNUAL STATUS REPORT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION ON CAMPUS (ACT 563 OF 2017)

Submitted by Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director, for Director Maria Markham, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, in compliance with Act 943 of 2015, to:

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee

Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Chair, House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

Senator Jane English, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair, House Committee on Education

Under Act 563 of 2017, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was directed to develop an action plan to address the prevention of sexual assault on College and university campuses. ADHE has collected the annual campus status reports for the 2017–2018 academic year, as required by the legislation, and now forwards an edited copy of the report prepared for AHECB to the above named offices, as directed by the legislation.

The legislative requirements for the action plan direct Arkansas public colleges and universities:

- 1) To incorporate sexual assault prevention into advising and student orientation;
- 2) To integrate information into academic courses as appropriate;
- 3) To identify opportunities to raise awareness and provide resources for sexual assault prevention across the entire student population;
- 4) To identify available grants and partnerships to assist with the work;
- 5) To collaborate with sources for access to care; and
- 6) To identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention and reduction of sexual assault.

A few schools are implementing their plans for the 2018-2019 academic year for the first time this year, while others began activities last year. In addition to meeting the minimum mandates of the legislation the reporting institutions embraced the goals of Act 563 and engaged in other activities. A few highlights from this year's work follow below, as a sample of the kinds of activities happening around the state.

Several campuses utilized the Clothesline Project to highlight awareness of sexual assault. The Clothesline Project is part of a nationwide effort to draw attention to domestic violence. In this work, actual clotheslines are erected on campuses (and/or other public locations) and domestic violence victims hang shirts to draw attention to the individuals harmed in the violence.

SAU-Tech is part of a regional/community partnership that has received a planning grant to work with the USDOJ. They are part of a team that includes the Camden police Dept. and the Women's Crisis Center of Camden.

Ozarka College incorporated sexual assault prevention (and unplanned pregnancy prevention into their college "Spring Fling" activities.

UA Fort Smith scheduled in person sexual assault presentations into the new student orientation, even creating "mini-orientations" for last minute registrations.

At **UA Cossatot** the Center for Student Success hosts the NO MORE Campaign each March. This is a week-long awareness campaign on sexual assault prevention and awareness.

Northwest Arkansas Community College is hosting a community art display called "What Were You Wearing?" during Sexual Assault Prevention Month. This is a national campaign that challenges participants to reinforce that sexual assault is never about what you are wearing.