Campus to mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

Sacramento State has been at the leading edge of sexual violence awareness and victim advocacy for years. In line with that commitment, the University offers a full slate of events during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, including Take Back the Night, Denim Day and Bystander Day.

The University’s commitment to keeping the campus a safe place for all to study, live and work is spelled out in detail in the “We Care. We Will Help” campaign. Learn about it at www.csus.edu/titleix.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month ribbons and Denim Day buttons will be available at the April events:

**Sign the “It’s On Us” Pledge** – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, April 6, through Thursday, April 9, in the Library Quad. Last fall, President Obama launched the “It’s On Us” initiative, an awareness campaign to help put an end to sexual assault on college campuses. Lauren Lombardo, president of Associated Students Inc. (ASI) signed the White House pledge on behalf of the University. Students are invited to stop by the ASI table to sign the “It’s On Us” pledge. *Presented by ASI*

**Bystander Day** – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 9, in the Library Quad. On Bystander Day, students who sign the “It’s On Us” pledge may also make a stronger statement by affixing their handprint to a paper wall. ASI will distribute information about bystander intervention. *Presented by ASI*

**“Uncomfortable Conversations: Discussing Sexual Assault and Dating Violence,”** two presentations Monday, April 6: noon to 1 p.m. in the University Union, Redwood Room, and 7 p.m. in the residence halls. Roundtable discussions on how to talk about sexual assault and dating violence. *Presented by Student Health and Counseling Services’ Peer Health Educators and ASI*

**The Clothesline Project and Sexual Assault and Domestic/Dating Violence Resource Fair,** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, Library Quad. The Clothesline Project allows people to share their thoughts about sexual assault by decorating T-shirts and hanging them on the clothesline for all to see. The Resource Fair brings together campus and community organizations to share information about preventing sexual assault and domestic/dating violence. *Presented by ASI and UEI*

**“How to Support a Survivor,”** noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, in the University Union, Hinde Auditorium. Sabrina Word, a health educator in Sac State’s Student Health and Counseling Services, offers advice on how to be supportive of sexual assault survivors.

**14th annual Sac State Take Back the Night,** 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, in the Library Quad. Nicki Croly, associate director of Student Organizations and Leadership, will address the crowd and then lead a march to the residence halls and back – all to raise
awareness of sexual violence and encourage the campus community’s commitment to activism. Presented by Peer Health Educators and ASI

The Hunting Ground, noon to 2:30 p.m. Monday, April 27, in the University Union, Redwood Room. A screening of the 2015 documentary about rapes on college campuses and their toll on the student victims and their families. Panel discussion to follow. Presented by Student Health and Counseling Services

Denim Day at Sac State, Wednesday, April 29. The campus community is encouraged to wear jeans as part of a national campaign to draw attention to misconceptions surrounding sexual assault. Denim Day was created after the Italian Supreme Court in 1998 overturned a rape conviction and ruled that the victim implied consent when she helped her attacker remove her tight jeans. Women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans to work the following day to show solidarity with the victim. The court later overturned its “denim defense.”

“Men Who Ask,” 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in the University Union, Summit Room. Sac State fraternity men discuss their pledge to end sexual violence against women. In 2014, the Women’s Resource Center created the “Men Who Ask” campaign to allow fraternity members to take an active role in preventing sexual assault. Some men also volunteered for bystander-intervention training. Presented by the Women’s Resource Center

Students who have questions or concerns can learn more about campus support options on the “We Care. We Will Help” website, as well as at the Student Health and Counseling Services website, https://shcssacstate.org. – Dixie Reid