

BUILDING JUSTICE PODCAST



CRISJ Building Justice Podcast

Season 3, Episode 21: Sexual Awareness and Prevention at Sac State

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Guests: Stephanie Cruz

Please note: This transcript may be imperfect. Please contact Lina Rincón (lina.rincon@csus.edu) or Victor Tafoya (vrodrigueztafoya@csus.edu) directly should you have questions.

Introduction

Lina: Okay. Okay. So we're ready to start. We're ready to start. Okay.

Victor: All right. Okay. Welcome to Building Justice, a podcast by Sacramento State's center on Race, immigration, and Social Justice. We explore critical issues affecting our communities with the hopes of creating a healthier and more just world.

I am Victor Rodriguez Tafoya, Communication Studies student and in collaboration with associate professor of sociology is Doctor Lina Rincón.

We have the pleasure to introduce an interview with Stephanie Cruz, Associate Director and Deputy Title nine, coordinator of the Office of Equal Opportunity, Division of Inclusive Excellence at Sacramento State.

Lina Hello, everybody. It's great to be here. Um, my name is Lina Rincón. I'm an associate professor in the sociology department. Uh, and I'm here with...

Victor: uh, my name is Victor Rodriguez Tafoya, and I'm a student, in communication studies with an emphasis in intercultural communications.

Lina: We're here. We're super excited to be with Stephanie. Stephanie, thanks for having us today.

Stephanie: Thanks for inviting me. I'm so excited.

Victor: Tell us a little bit about, you know, the title, your work here at the University of the Office of, uh, Equal Opportunity.

Stephanie: Yeah. So, uh, my name is Stephanie Cruz. Um, I use she her pronouns. Um, I've been with the university since 2016, and, uh, my role is I'm currently the associate director for the office for Equal Opportunity and under the Division of Inclusive Excellence.

So our office is responsible for, um, responding to issues of discrimination, harassment, um, sexual assault, sexual violence, dating violence, things of that nature. Um, we often are referred to as the title nine office. And so title nine encompasses those things such as sexual assault and gender based violence. So those are the things that we really work to hopefully prevent on this campus.

Victor: Tell us a bit more about your role, but I would like to know more how you got in your into your role. What motivated you to do what you do now?

Stephanie: Um, I went to law school and when I graduated law school, I was working in plaintiff side employment law. So what that means is, uh, we were we were the firm I was at was often representing women and minorities who experienced discrimination or sexual harassment in the workplace. So I was doing that for a while. And then, um, I was living in San Francisco and, you know, I ended up getting engaged and the idea of, well, we'll never be able to afford living here in San Francisco if we are going to raise a family. So I started thinking that I wanted to move into the public sector. And then I ended up getting a job at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, which is now known as the office for Civil Rights here in California. And there, um, we investigated, um, workplace claims of sexual harassment.

And so in doing that, um, you know, I've always loved college. When I was in college, I loved it when I was in law school. I love school, I've always been I've always loved school.

And when the opportunity to move to SAC State appeared doing the same work, I got really excited. Um, and I applied and I got the job here. And so it was just really something that has resonated with me because when I was working, when I was in law school, working at the plaintiff side employment firm.

It was. It was discouraging to see that, you know, you you whether you're, um, a person of color or you're a woman and you do everything you can to be, you know, what we say is successful.

You know, you go to a good school, you get a good job, you climb the ladder, but then you still experience harassment. It was just so discouraging.

And I always thought like, okay, well, maybe if I could be like in house somewhere, you know, work in a company or an organization, maybe we could stop these things from escalating to this level because we could address them when we first start hearing it happen.

So that was really what kind of drew me here. And then what's kept me here is the students.

I love working with students. I think you mean you would agree, right? Working with students is so amazing. It's the best.

And then like especially like I love working with our student interns and my my favorite thing is when you get, um, you know, you get you get a student sort of early on in their college career, maybe like a freshman or a sophomore, and then you see them grow.

As you know, Monday was the AICP showcase, and one of our student interns, Somaya, interviewed President Wood, and Smith started working with um office when she was a freshman. And I had I was just calling it like, oh, I had like a very proud moment. I was there at the stage taking, reading and taking a picture, and I was like, you doing amazing senior.

How was that? What are those moments? Because just so it's so amazing to watch students grow. And so that's what's kept me here. And I see myself working in higher education for a while. I just love being with students.

Victor: And where are you from originally? What's your, uh, background in schooling? What school did you go to?

Stephanie: So, um, I was born in San Francisco. Um, went to school here in the Sacramento area and Elk Grove. And then I went away for several years. I was in, um, I went to college at UC Irvine.

So I was living in Orange County for a while. And then I went to law school in San Francisco, stayed in San Francisco for a little bit after law school, and then moved back here in 2015 and back home, came back home. My family's here, my family is here and in the Bay area. So yeah, we came back home.

Lina: Stephanie and I had the chance to work together. Yeah, I used to work in the Division of Inclusive Excellence, and one thing that I learned as I was working there, I remember about a year ago, Stephanie was saying, you know, you should wear teal, uh, because April is coming up. Uh, April is sexual assault Awareness month, and this is the very topic that we're discussing today. Um, you know, and so I'm wondering if you could share a little bit about this event and why it matters why we get engaged.

Stephanie: Yeah. So, um, April is, as Lina said, is it is sexual assault Awareness Month. And what that is, is the we are looking on how we can make our campus community and the community at large one aware of the sexual violence that occurs, particularly, you know, um, the heightened risk for college students and to like, what can we do as a community to prevent it?

How can we push back on, you know, things like rape culture and, um, one of the things that we do the first Tuesday of every April is nationally recognized as the Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Day of action. So, SAAM, Day of Action. And, um, this year we're hosting a SAAM Day of Action Fair. Um, it's going to be from 11 to 2 p.m. in the library quad, and we have about, um, uh, about 18, uh, student groups and community members participating.

They'll be out there tabling, um, sharing resources. And each table will be also doing, um, a prevention activity to hopefully educate, you know, a student that's coming by or a community member that's walking by on ways that they can, you know, end sexual violence.

So it could be as simple as like, there's this one, um, there's this one, um, activity that our students set up where, you know, you put, um, you get a, you put a chip in, like a Plinko board, and then a scenario comes out and it says, okay, in this scenario, what would you do if you were witnessing this? How would you, you know, be an active bystander?

And so how can you interrupt when you see these things happen? How can you interrupt them and hopefully prevent things from happening?

Victor: What would you say to someone that, like you mentioned, you know, witness, how can someone be an ally? How can you build more awareness to individuals that might notice something, that is wrong? Um, but given the strength to be, you know, strong ally. Yeah.

Stephanie: So we always talk about, you know, how can you can either, you know, distract you could, you know, do something to

So, so for example, when we have students that, you know, tell us about like, you know, I was at a party and I saw something happen that didn't look all right. We talked about, you know, distracting, you know, maybe you see your friend, um, being pulled away and your friend might have drank too much, and you're unsure if they're able to consent to anything. You know, you can distract them. You can, like, say, oh, hey, you want to come with me over here and, like, let's you want to get a water with me or like, oh, let's go talk to this person here.

We talk. We we teach students to distract. Another thing that we do is we teach them to delegate. So maybe you don't want to approach the person, but maybe there's someone that you know that is more comfortable doing so. So you can go ahead and go and, um, grab them and maybe approach someone together.

So we talk about we, we go through these things with students. And a lot of students like pose different scenarios to us. And so, um, we those are some of the things that at this fair, hopefully someone who's like a passerby maybe at least be able to like think about it by participating.

So those are some of the things that we're hoping to accomplish.

Victor: Can you talk a little about the history, uh, of SAAM and uh, most important, that maintenance, not only yearly but on a daily to have people aware that this is something that we need to be cautious.

Stephanie: Oh, definitely. Definitely. So, um, I don't know if you can see, but we have the poster board here.

So, um, sexual assault awareness month, it has a lot of movements in the moment. So Sexual Assault Awareness Week actually started in the 1980s. And then they, um, when advocates wanted to just bring it's really just bringing awareness. Hey, sexual violence happens, you know, and then in the 90s, it became, um, they became they started hosting events throughout the month of April, but it wasn't officially recognized as a month until 2001.

And at that point it was nationally adopted. And the idea behind that was to create, like, cohesion, um, nationally on how can we one raise awareness, elevate the issues and then two, like, have, um, cohesive, um, events throughout the month to help people understand and begin to expect like, okay, it's April, this is coming.

So like I said last year, I said, hey, you should wear teal. And then now you're like, oh, it's April, maybe I should wear teal and I can talk about.

So, um, teal was chosen as the official color because, um, survivors found it not found that the color teal was healing. And what is also interesting, they also said that it was, uh, it symbolizes dedication.

Okay. Dedication to what? That's the part that really resonates with me. Um, dedication to trying to prevent sexual violence from occurring to end sexual violence because,

you know, it's it's pretty widespread and more so than people realize because it often goes unreported.

Lina: I like to follow up. So, um, you know, of course I wore teal because I knew it. But could you tell us more a little bit about, you know, why teal matters and you shared that. And also denim?

Oh, yeah. Why why are these symbols of these one month in.

Why is it important to wear teal or denim?

Stephanie: Yeah. So I actually think I have teal ribbons for both of you too.

Oh. In April.

And so the last Wednesday of every April is known as Denim Day, and Denim Day has been occurring since the early 2000.

And what that while that occurs, is it's a response to an Italian Supreme Court case in the 90s where, um, the Italian Supreme Court, you know, ruled that, uh, a woman who was unconscious and wearing tight jeans must have consented to her, uh, sexual assault because her jeans were so tight.

How did the perpetrator remove her jeans without her helping him.

And so, in a response to this ruling, Italian legislators the next day, female legislators wore denim and were, you know, tight jeans and different kinds of jeans to protest the ruling.

And it caught the attention of the world. And then female identifying politicians all over the world began wearing denim to show their support and solidarity and to raise awareness that clothing does not equal consent.

It doesn't matter what you're wearing. And it became a movement.

So, um, denim, uh, wearing denim during the month of April shows that you understand that clothing doesn't equal consent and that what someone wears, Does it mean that someone is asking for, you know, pushing back against some of those stereotypes that we hear.

Victor: Uh, what are those numbers that, you know, are recorded? The statistics on victims of sexual assault, women, men, transgender, uh, uh, community members. What are the numbers out there that, you know,

Stephanie: so for college, uh, female identifying students, the number is about 1 in 5 female students have experience, uh, sexual violence. And so I know that, folks, you know, when they hear sexual violence, they automatically think rape, you know, but there are other forms of sexual violence, interpersonal violence.

Um, for our male identifying students, uh, number is about 1 in 20. But, uh, you know, people who work in this field know that that number is incorrect because male student identified students tend to not report sexual, um, assault at a much higher rate than female students.

So that's something that we see.

And then the risk again goes up for if you, uh, for transgender students, for students of color, for disabled students.

And so those are some things that we try to be intentional about when we're planning things.

So last year, for example, we hosted a workshop that was, um, in partnership with, um, the Male Empowerment Collective here on campus, because we wanted to have some sort of like a smaller space where male students can, um, feel comfortable, real, and kind of hear that, you know, like, yes, this does happen and you're not alone, but also that you so often, you know, like the media, um, portrays male identifying folks as the problem when it comes to sexual violence.

We try to call them in and be like, you are part of the solution. You know, like, that's why we want to host these workshops so you can see and listen how you can be a part of the solution, how you can interrupt when you see like violence happening.

And so, um, that's what we did last year. And then this year our focus, we are doing a partnership with the Disability Access Center here on campus. I don't know if either of you know, but you know, how they open the Disability Cultural Center over the summer in the I think it's really cool.

So it's going to be there. And, um, we're hosting a workshop on Tuesday at 2:00, and it's specifically for, um, our disabled students on campus.

And it's called Sex Is for Every Body. And it's the idea that, you know, disabled students have sex, too.

And it's talk it talks a lot about, you know, um, how you can do it, accessibility, um, pain management, things like that.

And it's the first time we've ever done anything like that on this campus. So I'm really excited.

Lina: So based on what you've shared, you know, earlier, you shared your professional connections to this work that you're doing. Um, I'm curious to see if you would be open to sharing some personal connections to this topic. You are very passionate about this, like a strong advocate on campus.

So what are some other connections that you you have made, uh, with this work?

Stephanie: Some of the things that we go and we talk about when we're doing this work is like how it's impacted folks, particularly, you know, people of color.

So we like to start all of our events with a historical acknowledgment, acknowledging that, you know, in America, our there was significant, you know, sexual violence, Um, Imparted on to, um, those who are here first by colonizers, you know, the native and indigenous populations.

So. Colonization. You know that that happens many places beyond here.

And so I can share, like with in my family and our background, you know, um, my my dad is from the Philippines.

My mother's, uh, grandparents are from the Philippines.

And, you know, they they were impacted by sexual violence from the wars and from colonization.

And so I can, um, I will share that. I do have, um, my great grandmother had a child that was, um, a product of sexual violence.

And so it's something that, you know, deeply resonates with me.

Um, and I feel like it really ties into, you know, not just, you know, your identity as being as my identity is being female,

but, like, you know, your culture, your race, your your, um, national origin, all those things.

I feel like it has a lot of, uh, personal ties.

And I, I will say that most people who do this work, like, do have some sort of connection, whether directly or indirectly. So I think that's where the, the passion comes from. Yeah.

Lina: Thank you for sharing.

Stephanie: Thank you.

Victor: Just think about an intergenerational trauma. Oh like the constant tension. And how we are so privileged to have an education and open mind to ideas that challenge those ideas of that, that are feeding generational trauma and talk about how our, you know, in in our culture, our grandparents mothers might have been victims of.

But I also see that a lot of times that idea of don't say anything. Oh, what you said yes. No, we don't talk about this topic, but I feel like that's, uh, not helping. Not only heal, but. Make things better, uh, even for, you know, let's say my sisters, uh, and that idea of, like, hey, don't talk about it. No digas nada. Uh, what would you say about, you know, challenging those, uh, cultural misconceptions so that.

Stephanie: Victor, it's a hard one, and it's one that, you know, I face in my personal life often, you know, and so I will say, um, I don't know about you, but I know that, you know, like, in my family, we they're like, oh, you go to therapy, like, uh, it's like you don't you just go to church or pray or something and like, keep it in the family. Are you wasting your time?

You know, your kids are happy. You're you're you're giving money to a stranger to tell your problems to, you know, those are the things I hear.

But what's interesting in, um, my family specifically is that, um, in this generation.

So me and my cousin. So I come from a family that is.

We're up pretty much all girls. Like, we come from a girl family.

We always say that. And, um, my generation is has been really good about going to therapy and talking about it.

So it's something that we joke, we will joke about in family events, you know, um, we'll say it in front of, you know, our grandparents and things and we'll say like, we'll jokingly say, okay, so what did you say about me in therapy?

What did you say about me? I said, uh, but, you know, like grandparent, my grandma will be like, you know, we don't really talk about those things, but then we'll just we'll just say it kind of like jokingly.

But then also I like to remind them, like, I'm sorry you went through this like, I'm sorry you went through something and I'm sorry that, you know, at the time you were told to be quiet or you were silenced, but how you felt then I don't want I have a daughter. And I will say, like, I don't want my daughter to ever feel like that.

And that those are some of the things I say to like my grandparents and my family.

I have to like relay it to a very small young person for them to be like, okay, yeah, you're right.

Like I wouldn't want them to experience that. But, you know, there's still a little bit of the push back with like, you know, people like us older ones being like, okay, do you really need to like, air this out?

Like, do you really need to go on a podcast? Oh, yeah.

Do you really need this?

Um, but I will say, like, it is something that, um, you know, I have brought up saying, like, you know, I'm sorry that you went through that.

You know, my grandmother, for example, she used to tell me stories about when she was living in the Philippines and, like, hiding in a bunker because there were, you know, people going through their towns and, and, you know, raping folks.

And she says she remembers, like hiding in there with her sisters and her mother and her cousins and her aunts.

But she was privileged enough to do that because she came from a military family.

So they were they were, um, Filipino and white living in the Philippines.

And at least they had access to these bunkers to hide in. So.

There's it's it's so hard because like, yes, that's so traumatic.

But then also you think like, oh what a privilege to be able to like hide in some place.

You actually had a place to like hide and stuff. So it's a challenge.

And I do like to remind, you know, the generations that have come before us like, um, I'm sorry you felt that way.

I'm sorry that that happened to you. Do you still do you want to carry that on?

And I will say, my mom, for example, um, she..

Her becoming a grandmother has caused her to kind of reflect on some of the things that when she was a kid, like, for example, like my daughter said, said something.

And, um, you know, it's just a little sassy. My daughter can be a little sassy. And my mom made a comment like, oh, um, I could I could have never said that when I was a kid. And then my daughter said, well, you love me, so it doesn't matter if it's like we would tell her. So my mom was like, cool. You're right.

Like, I didn't feel comfortable saying those things because I didn't, you know,

I didn't feel, uh, has my daughter feels like, oh, you're going to love me regardless.

So. Yeah. Yeah. So it's it's a challenge. It's really challenging.

So if you know the answer Victor, I'd love to hear it...

Victor: You know, I think I agree with you because I have the same challenge every day. Um, every conversation I have, I have home. I think at the beginning when I started bringing up specific topics, it was, uh, it was tense and there was a lot of fight back or how are you going to talk to your elders? Like, how are you gonna talk to your mom like that? How are you going to reply to something? You should just stay quiet.

But little by little I noticed that, you know, it has been taking some time. Maybe like 3 or 4 years. To where, now they're starting to understand, and they're starting to see that, uh, yes, I am being a little rebel, but there's a there's a reason for it.

Yeah. Now that I'm trying to change the idea of that continues with that, a string of generational traumas.

Yeah. So it's been taking time.

But I've also noticed that, you know, in, in all the extended cultures that we share here in Sacramento, we all have very similar childhoods.

Yeah, yeah. Yeah, sure.

Lina: You made me think about the importance of sharing history with the new generations. You know, it's similar to the two of you. I deal with this in the family and it's like, no, you shouldn't talk about that. And with the newer generations is really understanding that maybe we have some traumatic things happening in the past, but it's important to share them and that there's love all around, hopefully.

Uh, so I you know, I like what we're sharing here.

Stephanie: It's, you know, I'll have to, like, pull a picture up on my phone and show you later, but, uh, my daughter recently, she's a in first grade, and she recently had a cultural project at school.

And so my daughter's multiracial, but she chose to do the Philippines, and, um, she made.

So you had to make a little, like, doll. And then she had the doll holding a book. And in the book, she felt that the Filipinos were having a nice day. And then the Spanish came and colonized them for 333 years!

Lina: Amazing. Wow.

Stephanie: So just like the idea that. And I will show you the picture is so funny, but the idea that, um, when they're saying, like, let's talk about culture, you know.

Yeah. And they say, okay, this is a part of our culture. This is what happened to us.

Like, this is what happened to my ancestors like that. That actually made me, like, extremely happy.

I'm like, okay, she's listening to some of the conversations that we're sharing and we're having maybe different conversations than what I got at that age

And so I think, like you talk about like breaking, you know, the generational trauma, I think like, how can we like how does it end with me? That's what I always think. Like, how does it end with me? And then how do we benefit the next generation. So they don't have as many hurdles.

And I think like, you know, talking to like, you know, you say like your elders and stuff about like we're trying to make it easier for them. So like let's do that.

Victor: Yeah. And I think we have a level of, uh, privilege. I'm like, yes, go to school being able to, um, look at history with a different lens, uh, where we also explore history, not just been instructed and see that other side of it.

And, um, what would you say to individuals that maybe they haven't had the privilege, uh, you know, opening in their minds because they're comfortable. Life is good. Nothing's happened. Or maybe they don't have the lens of understanding of the struggles that certain families, groups, uh, community members go through, uh, that shut them and they don't speak out about things.

Stephanie: That in of itself is a challenge. And, I mean, I will say even like within, you know, your in families, like, I definitely can think of people in my head that like, they're not as open to discussing these things.

It doesn't matter. And they're not in the older generation. They're just let's just move on.

Let's just move on like we're already here. We're privileged. We're going to school.

You know, all these things. Like they don't want to talk about it. And so that's just like something that I mean, I can I can share.

One thing that I often say is like, you may not want to talk about it, but it affects by not talking about it, you know, like silence is complicit.

So I, I like to remind them of that. And maybe you're not going to talk about it, but I hope like the next generation will if it's if it's not you, maybe it's going to be your kids, or maybe it's going to be like your students, whoever it is.

But like, I hope, I hope that they it's so hard because like, you know, you want them to recognize what's happening in the world, you know, but most people like if it doesn't affect them,

Lina: they just move on.

Stephanie: Yeah. Yeah, it's it's a challenge. You see that a lot too.

Lina: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, you even make me think about not just family but even working I don't I mean, I imagine it's interesting to work here at a university, right. Maybe sometimes you come across faculty or staff that are just, like totally denying some of your messages. So I'm sure that challenge, I don't know if it presents itself like not just in your family, but, you know, maybe people that are, you know, more old school that are ignoring these messages.

Stephanie: Yeah, I will say so when I started here, um, oh, that's 2016.

I'm coming up on my eighth anniversary, eight year anniversary graduation date.

Lina: Congratulations!

Stephanie: But when I started here, I definitely saw that from some of like the older faculty members. But I've noticed especially like post Covid, that has been lessening a lot.

So I'm very happy about that.

We've had some we've we've had a lot of, uh, you know, faculty come in and be really passionate about the subject and also like what I think.

When you're starting out as a faculty member, you may not realize like, how much students are going to come to you first.

Lina: Yeah, absolutely.

Stephanie: About things not related to your subject matter expertise.

And so like that's one thing with like, new faculty, um, they come in and, um, you know, a student discloses.

So this is like the most common situation that a student says, oh, hey, I'm so sorry.

I turned in that paper late. I was, um, assaulted over the weekend, and I've been there.

Lina: I've been there, right there. And you were like, uh, what do I do?

Stephanie: Yes, exactly. And so what we're starting to see is new faculty coming in. Um, being in that situation and being like, okay, please tell me more like I want to be able to support students in this way.

So I will say that for, um, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we like to do, uh, professional development activity for our staff and faculty because they do want to support students and they just want the tools.

So on April 16th, we're having a workshop in partnership with our, um, confidential advocates on campus. WEAVE and it's called Weave Got You. And it's this really great, um, program they put together.

And I attended it myself last fall. And what they do is it's specifically designed for folks working in a university, and it's how you can respond to disclosures in a trauma informed way, and how you can learn your resources that are available to students. So when they come to you, you one, know how to respond and listen to them two, know your duty to report.

And three, can point them in the right direction in a comforting way. And so that is something that, um, we really hope folks attend, because I think that, um, I mean, you attended our employee session last year, and we had a psychiatrist come in to talk about trauma in the brain.

And we have just felt that, you know, our staff and faculty, they want these experiences.

And so it's important to us every April to do something of that scale to help folks support our students.

You know, we're trying to help those who help others.

Lina: So I'd like to ask you something. So, of course, we're doing this podcast to really elevate what's happening in April.

Um, but, you know, after April, what are some resources that faculty, staff, students can access so they can continue their education on this topic?

Stephanie: Yes. So one of the things is, um, you know, we do have events throughout the year.

Um, and they're going to be posted on the Sac State OEO website.

But really, um, you know, we offer trainings by request.

We offer, um, you know, students, sometimes faculty members say like, hey, can you just come in and talk to my students?

Um, you know, and we talk about, like, interpersonal violence.

We talk about dating, violence, stalking. Um, you know, last semester we we did.

Let me see. So this calendar year. So last semester we did like 73 individual trainings for folks on campus.

And so sometimes people, um, come with us, come to us with very specific request, like, they want to know more about stalking, for instance.

And then we'll go in and we'll do, um, a training on that and like just help educate people and keep them learning about it.

Victor: Can you give us another rundown of the events coming up and specifically, uh, SAAM, SAAM events...

Stephanie: Yeah. So okay, so like I said, uh, Tuesday is our fair 11 to 2 in the library quad.

It'll be really fun. We have so many different groups coming, and we give students who we'll give everyone who attend.

So you can come to you and you can get this, too. But we give, um, folks a punch card, uh, with ten spaces, and they'll be like 18 different groups.

And if you do ten of the activities out of the 18, you can redeem your, um, punch card for free item off of the food trucks that we're having there.

We did this, um, similar model for in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we had such great feedback, like we had almost 300 students complete the entire card and get a food truck prize

In our heads were like, okay, that's 300 students who had ten interactions about, um, the topic that they wouldn't otherwise have, like, this is great.

And that didn't count, like the hundreds of students that came by for a little bit and didn't have time to do the whole, um, punch card system.

So we have that that, um, that's 11 to 2 on Tuesday, April 2nd at 2:00 that day,

we're having a workshop in the Disability Cultural Center, and that's the one, um, Sex is for every body for everybody, hosted by Kaylee Trace.

It's she is a she describes herself as a queer, queer, disabled femme.

And, um, Kaylee will be back with us on Wednesday as well for our keynote, um, speech called.

Um, it is called The F*cking Facts, Lessons and Pleasure and Safety.

And so. Yep, that's our ad right there. And then so, um, that's going to be really fun.

It's going to be all the she describes it as all the sex as you didn't know you needed.

And it's going to go through the nitty gritty details and all the awkward details on how you can, um, maximize pleasure and minimize risks when it comes to sex.

Lina: I love that.

Stephanie: Right. So I know students are going to love it.

And what's really great is, um, if you come, you'll be if you're a student and you come to the event, um, and it if you are entered to win a free parking pass for the next semester.

So that's pretty good. Yeah. And so that one is 12 to 1, um, in the Pacific Suite at the University Union.

So that'll be really fun. We also have, um, what we call the teal games.

And the softball game is April 12th at 2:30.

And, and um, what that is, is our partnership with athletics. They have their players wear teal hair ribbons for softball and teal ribbons on the caps for baseball.

And what's really great is the announcer, um, embeds different facts and, um, um, information about events coming up throughout the game.

So for example, um, I don't know. Or either of you baseball fans know nothing about soccer.

Let me, let me think of, uh, one that you would know.

And so, for example, they're all baseball themed, but one of them that you would understand that is, uh, let's strike out sexual violence together as a community.

And so there's a ton of little baseball references weaved in.

And the announcer does that. And so it's just a way to like for athletics also to show like how they support it and

to elevate it to the community since they have a lot of community members attend.

What's really great is that so the softball is April 12th, um, at 230 and then but on the 26th of April is baseball.

And we got President Wood to throw out the first pitch for that game.

So it'll be really exciting for us for that.

We also have um, Denim Day, which is Wednesday, and Take Back the Night, and that's hosted by, um, our confidential advocates on campus.

And that's from 430 to 630 in the library quad. So that'll be fun, too.

There's so many things you could do to get involved. So, uh, we hope I hope to see you all there at some things.

Lina: Yeah, yeah, I'll be there.

Victor: Now, I want to invite those who are listening or watching to have a commitment and carry on the awareness and the fight and be an ally.

Now as we're here, let us commit with something.

I'm going to commit as a mexicano, as a man, as a male, to be more aware, to be an ally and to help those around us.

Lina: I am going to commit to continue to educate those around me.

I do struggle sometimes with family and sometimes with men and in my life to really recognize this as an issue.

So I'm going to commit to continue to push into shared histories and to share love

Uh, and awareness.

Stephanie: I am going to commit to, um, continuing to encourage our, our office and our division to host these kinds of events for students and bring these events to students.

But personally, in my personal life, I am going to commit to raising awareness and, um, teaching consent to all the young people in my life.

So my kids or friends, our community, and that's really what I'm hoping to do because we've got to start young.

Victor: Well, I want to thank you both, Stephanie, for giving us a space.

Stephanie: Thank you so much for having me.

But I love this conversation. I mean, okay, keep going, I think, but I feel like these are cool.

Um, you know, any kind of a fishbowl, a subject out of a fishbowl, we could just talk about it,

Lina: I agree, uh, I will, I also want to thank you, Stephanie.

Like, this has been so much fun. And I know we've been wanting to do this and Victor

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for this was so much fun.

Stephanie: Yeah. Thank you for your time. Thank you. Oh, I'm so excited.

And we hope to see you at some of our events this month. You just listened to the Building Justice podcast.

Concluding Language

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