

# 2024 Gulf Coast Campus Safety Summit Program

# GULF COAST CAMPUS SAFETY SUMMIT

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A two-day conference on preventing and responding to gender-based violence on college and university campuses.

September 10-11, 2024  
Houston Community College  
West Houston Institute  
Houston, TX

## Keynote Session:

### **Know More, Do More: Recognizing & Responding to Stalking on Campus**

*Dana Fleitman, Senior Training & Awareness Specialist, and Kendra Eggleston, Training & Campus Specialist, Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center (SPARC)*

Stalking is a prevalent, dangerous, and often misunderstood crime, and individuals ages 18-24 experience the highest rate of stalking. This session explores the dynamics of stalking, focusing on the highly contextual nature of the crime by discussing common tactics used by perpetrators, stalking's co-occurrence with domestic and sexual violence, as well as tools to help plan for victim safety and hold offenders accountable.

## Plenary Session:

### **Everything You Need to Know About the New Title IX Regulations**

*Cari Simon, JD, Fierberg National Law Group*

The Biden Administration finally released the new Title IX Regulations which went into effect on August 1, 2024. This plenary session will review those changes and help campus administration, personnel, and advocates to be best prepared to support survivors. Join Cari Simon, one of the top Title IX attorneys representing sexual assault survivors in college and university settings nationwide, to discuss these changes.

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## **Comprehensive Workshops**

### **Creating Change: Empathy, Accountability, and Restorative Justice in Addressing Sexual Violence**

Toria Jones, Sexual Misconduct Support Services Manager; and Laura Zavala-Membreno, Director of the Women & Gender Resource Center, University of Houston

Ending sexual violence must involve attention to those accused of causing harm. Through a delicate balance of empathy and accountability, this workshop will discuss the complex issues surrounding individuals accused of sexual violence as a means of prevention. Through a trauma-informed, social justice lens, participants will challenge stereotypes, build empathy, and foster accountability for this highly stigmatized population.

**Part I:** A sociocultural/historical overview of rape culture and perpetration  
Part I of our presentation will provide a historical overview of how sexual violence perpetration has been portrayed in US culture, with a foundation of racism, patriarchy, and other forms of oppression. This section will include the following components:

- Sexual violence and its history in the US
- Media portrayals of perpetrators Stereotypes of perpetrators
- A present-day look at rape culture Case examples of individuals who exploited their power and victimized others
- How our culture contributes to creating perpetrators and maintaining rape culture Lack of sex education and reproductive healthcare

**Part II:** How to change the culture and create the world we want  
Part II will help us explore the concept, as quoted by Maya Angelou, “You can’t really know where you are going until you know where you have been.” With a historical background in place, this section will expand upon the following:

- Why understanding the historical background of rape culture and sexual violence is key to prevention practices
- Nuances to perpetrators behavior: moving from viewing perpetrators as “monsters” and seeing them as complex humans
- How a focus on perpetration leads to prevention of sexual violence
  - Changing the culture Restorative justice and accountability practices with perpetrators
- Legal and policy response to sexual violence
  - Handling of cases
  - Testing rape kits
  - Sex education as prevention work
- How this program serves victims/survivors and alleged/perpetrators

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- A look at University of Houston Sexual Misconduct Support Services

## **Don't Call Me Cute: Liberation Self-Defense for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*Brittany Anne Chozinski, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Title IX Deputy Coordinator, Our Lady of the Lake University*

Part I and II:

Popular in the 1980s and 90s, self-defense as a means of rape and violence avoidance fell out of style at the turn of the century. Critics claimed that women could not possibly overpower a man, that they would be injured if they tried, and that teaching women that they needed to defend themselves amounted to victim blaming. Yet research has consistently shown that self-defense increases assertiveness, self-esteem, and self-efficacy, and reduces anxiety and avoidance behavior while increasing participatory behavior and confidence in a way that may decrease chances of victimization in the first place. Despite these many advantages, many self-defense workshops today can still be legitimately critiqued for catering to predominately white, heteronormative, middle-class norms of behavior, discouraging participation from students who may need these lessons the most. This two part-workshop will explore the use of self-defense in violence prevention on college campuses with a focus on engaging marginalized populations, and using self-defense as a means of boundary work, trauma recovery, and primary prevention.

Participants will engage in hands-on self-defense practice (to their comfort and ability level) as well as lecture and classroom discussion on equitable access. Participation is encouraged from all genders, bodies, and ability levels.

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Creating a Culture of Care: How Unleashing the Power of Healthy Relationships and Bystander Intervention Can Make a Difference**

*Kenneth Scott, DVHRT Coach, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council*

In this workshop, participants will learn how to build and maintain healthy relationships while developing skills to intervene in potentially harmful situations. Through interactive activities and discussions, we will explore the power of bystander intervention and how it can positively impact individuals and communities. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of healthy relationships and practical strategies for promoting safety and well-being in their personal and professional lives. Join us to unleash the power of healthy relationships and be a force for positive change.

### **Building Bridges: Allyship for LGBTQ & BIPOC Communities**

*Misbah Lakhani, Outreach Coordinator; and Swati Narayan, Director of Safety & Community Belonging, TAAF, Daya Houston*

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This presentation explores the link between becoming a better community member to minoritized groups, including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals, and how allyship can help prevent violence in our communities. By being more attuned to their needs, dispelling stereotypes, and fostering a safer environment, we can create a more inclusive and secure community for everyone.

## **Student-Led Primary Prevention Programming on College Campuses**

*Jessica Bellant, MSW, Education & Prevention Director, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc.*

Pursuing true social norms change on college campuses is an understandably daunting task. Yet with the proper tools and support, students today are much more eager to engage in activism than ever before. In this workshop, we will discuss the heart of prevention of sexual violence and how to begin a program on campus that trains students to facilitate meaning prevention of violence programming. We will address concerns, barriers, techniques to enhance engagement and specific programming and events that have occurred on local campuses to inspire what is possible on your campus.

## **Stalking 2.0: The Use of Technology to Stalk**

*Dana Fleitman, Senior Training & Awareness Specialist, and Kendra Eggleston, Training & Campus Specialist, Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center (SPARC)*

Stalkers are creative criminals who use - and misuse - a variety of technologies to locate, surveil and monitor their victims. This session will address common technologies utilized by stalkers, discuss evidence preservation concerns, and identify effective safety-planning strategies.

## **“We’re Just Talking” - Navigating Teen Relationships**

*John Reyes, Prevention and Education Manager, AVDA*

Participants will engage in learning about the different ways that teens engage in relationships and how cultural and societal norms effect the way they engage with each other. The group will also talk about what abusive relationships look like, the types of abuse that teens encounter the most and the warning signs of abusive people. Lastly, the participants will discuss barriers to seeking help, how to help a teen in need and the various resources available to teens and to adults wishing to help them.

## **Engaging College-Aged Men in Domestic Abuse Prevention**

*John Reyes, Prevention and Education Manager, AVDA*

In this breakout session, participants will engage in discussions on three main objectives:

1. Understanding relationship abuse and exploring related statistics.
2. Examining the “Man Box Teachings,” their impact on how young men interact with girls and women, and their influence on relationships.

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3. Brainstorming strategies to involve college-aged men in prevention efforts.

During the brainstorming portion, participants will break into small groups to develop actionable plans they can implement in their communities.

## **Responding in the Red Zone: Addressing Sexual Assault in College Communities**

*Swati Narayan, Director of Safety & Community Belonging, TAAF, Daya Houston*

This comprehensive breakout session offers an overview of sexual violence issues, including the critical "Red Zone" the period of time in the first four months of college - when more than half of sexual assaults on college campuses occur, and first-year students are especially vulnerable. The presentation covers essential topics such as definitions of sexual assault, the importance of consent, prevalence statistics, and common myths. Participants will learn about the impact of sexual violence on survivors and society, as well as prevention strategies and bystander intervention techniques. It also will provide guidance on supporting survivors, understanding trauma, and navigating reporting and legal options. Through interactive activities and discussions, attendees gain practical skills to recognize, prevent, and respond to sexual assault, ultimately contributing to a safer and more informed community.

## **Together, We Can Protect Each Other**

*Nishi Gupta, MD, MHSA*

Dr. Nishi Gupta will take you through a journey of bystander effect obstacles starting at age 5 and highlight how vocal supports can save lives. Sexual assault, physical assault, and domestic violence coupled with the damage caused by the bystander effect and silence of those around her almost shattered her dream to become a physician. Over 16 moves for 3 degrees in 10 years she was the friend, resident advisor, senior advisor, the only resident physician reporting incidents, the treating physician, and the victim of these crimes. The victims, survivors, and predators are always right beside us. We need to listen, validate, support, and guide each other to help. Together we can protect each other if we try.