GT Violence Prevention & Advocacy Initiative

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Overview

VOICE is a campus-wide initiative to end sexual violence in the Georgia Tech community through cultural and institutional change.
Campus and Community Partners

- Student Health Services
- Women’s Resource Center
- Housing
- Greek Life
- Counseling Center
- Student Government
- Police Department
- Athletic Association and others
• VOICE builds on work by the GT Sexual Violence Task Force
  – Task Force created by the Office of the Dean of Students in 1995
  – Developed Sexual Misconduct & Harassment Policy
  – Created Sexual Assault Information Line
• Funded by a $200,000 grant from the Department of Justice
Background

VOICE Initiative Launched in Fall 2003
- Grant-funded full-time Violence Prevention Coordinator and part-time Victim Advocacy/Response Coordinator develop and implement programs and services
- More than 3,000 students have attended a VOICE educational event or presentation.
- 420 staff and faculty members attended a VOICE training in 2004.
- Website expanded to include more resources
The GT Student Policy on Sexual Harassment and Misconduct defines “sexual misconduct” as “sexual contact without consent by an acquaintance or a stranger”

The full policy is available online at www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/
90% of victims are women, 10% are men

About 5% of college women are the victims of rape in any given calendar year.

Most sexual violence perpetrated against college women (90%) is committed by a man they know in the privacy of a residence.

- In the category of completed rapes, the most common victim-offender relationships were classmates (35.5%) and friends (34.2%), with boyfriends representing a lower percentage (23.7%).

- Fewer than five percent of sexual assaults are reported to the police [1]

Impact on Victims

The after-effects of the sexual assault can impact students inside and outside the classroom.

- Anxiety/fear
- Difficulty in their relationships (i.e. family, friends, dates)
- Drop in GPA
- Transfer/drop out of school
Prevention and Response

VOICE empowers men and women throughout campus, personally and collectively. This initiative includes:

- A coordinated campus-wide violence prevention program:
- Response, advocacy, and treatment services for students who have been victims of violence
VOICE Goals

1. Create a coordinated community response to violence against women on campus

2. Establish a prevention and education program for all incoming students.

3. Provide trainings to coordinate the response of administrators, law enforcement personnel, students and other staff and faculty to victims-survivors of violent crime.
4. Strengthen campus disciplinary boards training programs, ensuring they respond effectively to charges of sexual violence.

5. Implement and operate a comprehensive sexual violence prevention program.

6. Strengthen victim services programs as well as information campaigns.

7. Improve the reporting of sexual violent crimes by staff and faculty to the Institute.
What Faculty Can Do

1. Increase knowledge about sexual violence resources and how the issue affects the productivity and success of GT students

2. Increase participation in sexual violence related activities, including the task force membership and attendance at trainings.

3. Assist VOICE program to secure funding for victim advocate program coordinator position.