




**Thank you for joining us.  
The webinar will begin soon.**

A background image showing two women sitting at a table, engaged in a conversation. The woman on the left has dark hair and wears glasses, while the woman on the right has blonde hair. They are both smiling and appear to be in a professional or collaborative setting. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# Supporting Survivors of Campus Sexual Violence: Involving Campus and Community Partners

May 7, 2025





# Before We Begin

- All attendees are in listen-only mode. If you run into any audio issues during the webinar, please try another method of listening in, such as computer audio or calling in by phone.
- All registrants and attendees will receive a link to the recorded version of this webinar in a follow up email.
- If you have questions during the presentation, please let us know by typing your question into the Q&A panel. We will address these at the end of the presentation.





# Carrie Benson, MEd

**Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education  
University of Pittsburgh**

Carrie Benson, MEd (she/her) currently serves as the inaugural director of the sexual violence prevention and education office at the University of Pittsburgh. She is responsible for ensuring that faculty, staff and students are engaged in dialogue around identifying, preventing, and responding to sexual misconduct.

She also serves as the principle-investigator of a \$500,000 seed grant, Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Survivor Support on Campus. Carrie was recognized by Pittsburgh Magazine as one of Pittsburgh's 40 under 40 young leaders in 2024. In May of 2024 her team was recognized as a Community Champion by Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

Carrie joined Pitt as a Title IX Specialist in May 2015. Previously, she was the Assistant Director of Campus Life at Carlow University. She has experience working in diversity and inclusion, student affairs and service-learning. She earned her master's degree in education from Pitt in 2012.

# Willa Campbell, MPH

**Lead Prevention Educator  
University of Pittsburgh**

Willa Campbell, MPH (she/her) is currently the Lead Prevention Educator with the University of Pittsburgh's Office for Sexual Violence Prevention and Education. As a part of her role, Willa manages their new dialogue-based sexual misconduct prevention program, Circle Up.

In 2023, she graduated with her master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health where she studied in the department of Behavioral & Community Health Sciences.

Before starting her graduate studies, she worked in the non-profit sector first as a Young Adult Case Manager with the 412 Youth Zone, a drop-in center for system-involved and homeless youth, and most recently as a Legal Advocate with Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, Allegheny County's rape crisis center.





# Our Time Together

- Learn about recent data trends related to campus sexual misconduct and how they impact the learning environment.
- Examine the consequences of sexual violence on college students and on the campus environment.
- Explore ways to leverage campus and community resources to create a culture of support on campus.







# Building Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives

## *Who We Are: Prevention at Pitt*



# Prevention at Pitt: Charter

To reduce sexual violence at Pitt and to better support the survivors/victims in our community through dialogue-oriented prevention, engaging programming and education, community partnerships, innovative research, and centering student voices and ideas.





# Prevention at Pitt

## The Team

- 2 Full-Time Staff Members
- 4 Prevention Educators (*graduate students and part-time employees*)
- 25 Undergraduate Peer Educators and Prevention Leaders
- Community Partners
  - Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)
  - Standing Firm





# Prevention at Pitt Programming

## Awareness Building

- Basic understanding of definitions, behavioral expectations, policies, and resources.
- Understanding the scope of the issue.

## Cultural Change

- Educational opportunities that engage students in dialogues and discussions around messaging, consent, healthy relationships and boundaries, bystander intervention, and survivor/victim support.
- Building community by encouraging participants to share and learn from one another in a safe environment.

## Survivor/Victim Support

- Promoting a trauma-informed campus environment.







# Building Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives

*Responding to data and trends to address the educational, emotional, and physical needs of our students*





# About the HESMA Survey, 2024

*(Higher Education Sexual Misconduct and Awareness Survey)*

- Climate Survey Administered and Prepared by Westat
- Administered at 10 AAU Institutions in the Spring of 2024
- 180,323 Total Student Participation
- Provides Information Regarding:
  - Prevalence
  - Knowledge
  - Perceptions



# General Data Trends

- About **32% of all survivors** who took the survey made contact with a program or resource after their experience with sexual violence.
- **93% of women** who experienced an incident of penetration reported at least one behavioral or emotional consequence.
- The **three most important reason's** women provided for not contacting a program were:
  - **52.3%** thought she could handle it herself.
  - **47.2%** did not think the incident was serious enough to merit seeking help.
  - **37.8%** felt embarrassed, ashamed, or that it would be too emotionally difficult to report.

# Sexual Violence Victimization Rates at Pitt (HESMA 2024)

*(Nonconsensual sexual contact involving force or inability to consent or stop what was happening)*

## Female Students

- 20% undergraduates reported experiencing sexual violence.
- 9% graduate students reported experiencing sexual violence.

## Male Students

- 6% undergraduates reported experiencing sexual violence.
- 1% graduate students reported experiencing sexual violence.

## Trans and Nonbinary Students

- 25% undergraduates reported experiencing sexual violence.
- 15% graduate students reported experiencing sexual violence.





# Consequences of Victimization at Pitt (HESMA 2024)

Survivors of sexual violence at Pitt have reported:	Women	Men
Feeling concerned for their safety on campus	46%	28%
Withdrawing from friend interactions	39%	30%
Loss of interest in daily activities, or feelings of helplessness or hopelessness	57%	49%
An increased use of drugs and alcohol	22%	23%
Withdrawing from at least one class	9%	19%
Decreased class attendance	37%	33%
Difficulty concentrating on assignments, exams, and studies	60%	51%
<b>Considered leaving Pitt</b>	14%	20%



# Sexual Misconduct Disclosures at Pitt (HESMA 2024)

- 41.4% - 63.7% of students **did not report** because they did not believe what happened to them was "serious enough."
- 28.1% sexual violence **reported to a "program."**
  - *Program defined: police, formal reporting on campus, confidential resources.*
- 75.7% - 88.7% of students **disclosed to a peer.**







## What We Learned...

- Identify ways to connect more students to support resources.
  - On-Campus Support
  - Community Resources
- Reduce stigma around experiences of sexual misconduct.
- Create safe spaces where survivors could heal in community.
- Provide all students with basic skills for responding to disclosures.
- Bring survivor support work into all aspects of prevention work.





# Building Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives

- Survivor Support Network
- Community Partnerships
- Student-Initiated Survivor Support Work



# Survivor Support Inventory



## Culture

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- What is your institution's mission and values?
- What are the demographics of your student body?
- Are you religiously affiliated?
- How engaged are students, staff, faculty?
- Commuter, residential, etc.?
- Research, liberal arts, community college?
- Urban, suburban, rural?
- Large or small?



## Resources

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- What are your financial resources?
- Do you have staff support?
- Leadership support?
- Do you have access to technology?
- Do you have easy access to space?
- What support resources are already on campus?
- What community partnerships already exist?
- What victim services agencies are near your campus?



# Example: Prevention at Pitt

	Strengths	Challenges
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involved Student Body</li><li>• Leadership Support</li><li>• Value in Collaboration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Institution Size</li><li>• Marketing</li><li>• Siloed</li></ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dedicated Prevention Staff</li><li>• Staff and Faculty Expertise</li><li>• Pitt Researchers Lend Their Expertise</li><li>• Grant Funding</li><li>• Relationships With Community Partners</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Space for Large Programming</li><li>• Content Creation for Many Different Populations</li></ul>



# Survivor Support Programs and Initiatives



**Survivor Support  
Network**



**Community  
Partnerships**



**Student Initiated  
Support**



# Survivor Support Network





# Survivor Support Network

The **Survivor Support Network** is a community of trained and caring professionals who are knowledgeable about campus and community resources and are committed to supporting survivors in our community.

- Three Cohorts Each Year
  - Fall, Spring, Summer
- Currently Accept Graduate Students, Staff, and Faculty
- Courses Are Offered Both Virtually and In-Person

# Curriculum

- **Core (All Members Must Complete Both Trainings)**
  - Campus Sexual Misconduct Resources & Reporting Overview
  - Trauma Informed Engagement
- **Elective (All Members Must Participate in One Course)**
  - Stand With and Support with the Women's Center and Shelter
  - Trauma 101 with Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
  - Survivor Advocacy 101
  - Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct
  - Bystander Intervention for Faculty and Staff
- **Participation in Heart to Heart with the Survivor Support Network**
  - In-person, Dialogue-Based Capstone
  - Lunch Served
  - Focus on Community Building



# Curriculum Support

## Community Partner Facilitated Courses

- Stand With and Support with the Women's Center and Shelter
- Trauma 101 with Pittsburgh Action Against Rape

## Campus Partner Facilitated Courses

- Survivor Advocacy 101 with CARE Advocates



# Graduation and Engagement

## Members Become Prevention at Pitt Ambassadors

- Member Sign for Their Office
- Certificate of Completion
- Prevention at Pitt Quarter Zip
- Ongoing Prevention at Pitt Engagement



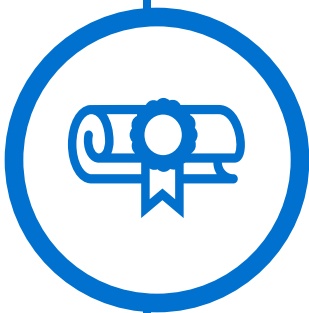


# Tips for Creating Your Own Survivor Support Network



## Develop the Curriculum That Best Works for Your Campus

- What courses are needed?
- How often can you run courses?
- It is okay to start small!



## Utilize the Expertise You Have on Campus

- Faculty expertise
- Counseling services
- Civil Rights and Title IX Office



## Logistics

- Connect with members after completion
- Teams channel
- Professional development
- Keep members connected to one another socially

# Community Partnerships





# Partnerships



## Community Partners

- Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
- Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh



## Key Campus Partners

- Survivor Support Network
- CARE Advocates
- Wellness Center
- Civil Rights and Title IX Office
- Out of Classroom Curriculum
- Campus Researchers

# Relationship Building Community and Campus Partners

- Mutually Beneficial Relationships
- Regular Formal Check-Ins
- Informal Off Campus Check-Ins
- Supporting and Celebrating their Important Milestones and Events



# Formal Partnerships

- Formal MOUs
  - Required in Some States
- If Resources Permit, Pay for Community Partner Services
- Include Partner Information on Campus Signage
  - Provide the Option for Review
- Integrate their Expertise into the Work
  - Consult
  - Training
  - Solicit Ideas and Feedback
  - Help Them Get to Know Key Community Members
  - Partner/Invite for Campus Events

**Help Is Available.  
You Are Not Alone.**

Choose any of these support options:

- Confidential Support**  
Counseling or advocacy
- Accommodations with Civil Rights and Title IX**  
Academic accommodations, workplace support, no contact order, housing support and more. You do not need to file a formal report to get accommodations.
- Make a Formal Report**  
Police report or make a report to the University

University Counseling Center	Office for Civil Rights and Title IX	Office for Civil Rights and Title IX
Call (24/7): 412-548-7930 Visit: Nordenberg Hall Wellness Center	Call: 412-648-7850 Email: TitleIXcoordinator@pitt.edu Visit: 18th floor of the Cathedral of Learning during regular campus hours	Call: 412-648-7850 Email: TitleIXcoordinator@pitt.edu Visit: 18th floor of the Cathedral of Learning during regular campus hours
CARE Advocates Call: (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 412-624-5756 Email: Careadvocates@pitt.edu	Pitt Concern Connection Call: 1-800-468-5768 Online: pitt.concern Anonymous reporting available	Pitt Concern Connection Call: 1-800-468-5768 Online: pitt.concern Anonymous reporting available
Pittsburgh Action Against Rape Call (24/7): 1-866-363-7273 Chat: paaar.net		Pitt Police Department Call: 412-624-2121

**Sexual misconduct can come in many forms.**

- Sexual violence
- Sexual harassment
- Stalking
- Relationship violence
- Other events or experiences that have made you feel uncomfortable

**Learn More**  
diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/  
how-find-support-and-resources

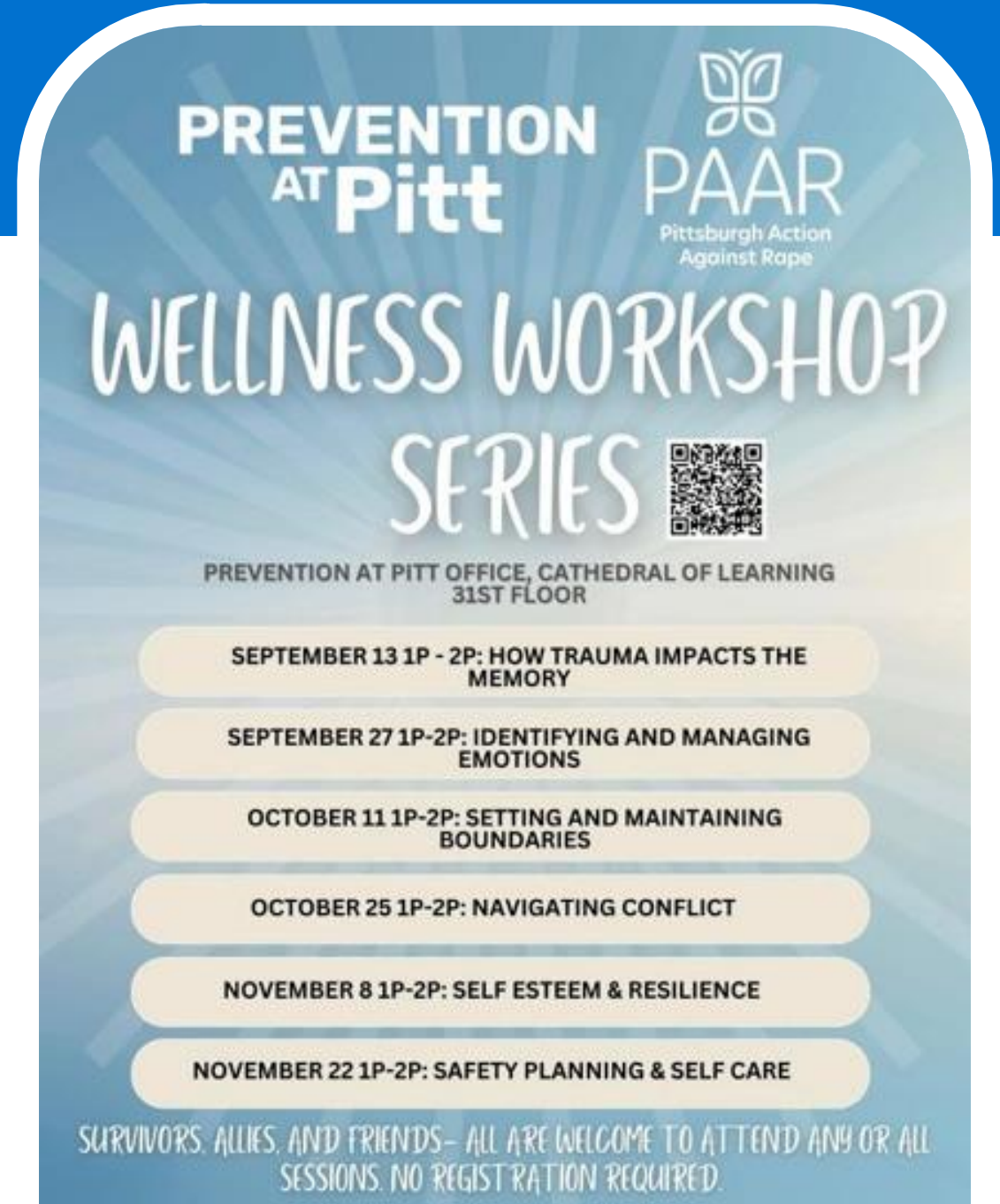
University of Pittsburgh

Consent for privacy and confidentiality is a common barrier to seeking support. Privacy and confidentiality are for those to ensure and to help and security after a traumatic incident. Confidential support is available at the University Counseling Center and Pittsburgh Action Against Rape to support privacy while seeking information and support. The Office for Civil Rights and Title IX also provides privacy but is not fully confidential. Confidentiality remains to respect accommodations or support from this office without flag a formal complaint.

11-0211-2024

# Wellness Workshops

- Non-disclosure group focused on healing, self-care, boundaries, and healthy relationships.
- Community building in a safe space.
- Co-facilitated by Prevention at Pitt and PAAR staff.



The poster is for the 'Wellness Workshop Series' and features a blue background with a white border. At the top left is the 'PREVENTION AT Pitt' logo, and at the top right is the 'PAAR Pittsburgh Action Against Rape' logo. The title 'WELLNESS WORKSHOP SERIES' is prominently displayed in the center. To the right of the title is a QR code. Below the title, the location 'PREVENTION AT PITT OFFICE, CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING 31ST FLOOR' is listed. A series of six horizontal yellow bars contain the dates and topics for each session. At the bottom, a white text box states that survivors, allies, and friends are all welcome to attend any or all sessions, with no registration required.

**PREVENTION AT Pitt**

**PAAR**  
Pittsburgh Action  
Against Rape

**WELLNESS WORKSHOP  
SERIES**

PREVENTION AT PITT OFFICE, CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING  
31ST FLOOR

SEPTEMBER 13 1P - 2P: HOW TRAUMA IMPACTS THE  
MEMORY

SEPTEMBER 27 1P-2P: IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING  
EMOTIONS

OCTOBER 11 1P-2P: SETTING AND MAINTAINING  
BOUNDARIES

OCTOBER 25 1P-2P: NAVIGATING CONFLICT

NOVEMBER 8 1P-2P: SELF ESTEEM & RESILIENCE

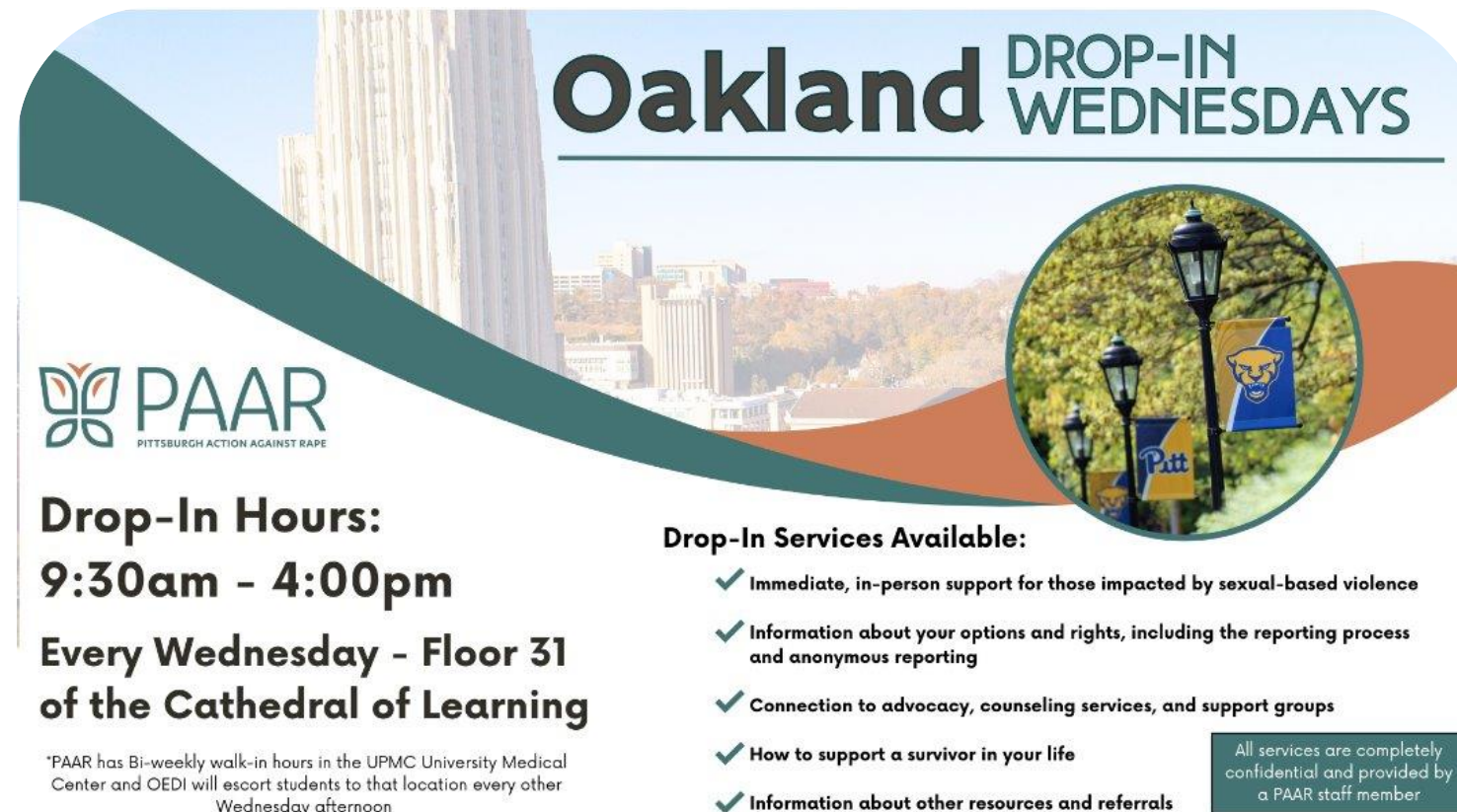
NOVEMBER 22 1P-2P: SAFETY PLANNING & SELF CARE

SURVIVORS, ALLIES, AND FRIENDS- ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY OR ALL  
SESSIONS. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.



# Drop-In Hours with PAAR

*“To be able to talk with someone with full confidentiality, who affirmed my emotions and offered support without judgement, stopped me from completely spiraling.”*



The poster features a background image of the Oakland skyline. A large, stylized 'W' shape is overlaid on the image, with a green upper half and an orange lower half. The PAAR logo is on the left, and a circular inset shows a street scene with a Pitt banner. The text is arranged in a clear, organized manner, providing essential information about the drop-in hours and services.

## Oakland DROP-IN WEDNESDAYS

**PAAR**  
PITTSBURGH ACTION AGAINST RAPE

**Drop-In Hours:**  
**9:30am - 4:00pm**  
**Every Wednesday - Floor 31**  
**of the Cathedral of Learning**

\*PAAR has Bi-weekly walk-in hours in the UPMC University Medical Center and OEDI will escort students to that location every other Wednesday afternoon

**Drop-In Services Available:**

- ✓ Immediate, in-person support for those impacted by sexual-based violence
- ✓ Information about your options and rights, including the reporting process and anonymous reporting
- ✓ Connection to advocacy, counseling services, and support groups
- ✓ How to support a survivor in your life
- ✓ Information about other resources and referrals

All services are completely confidential and provided by a PAAR staff member

# Student Initiated Survivor Support Work





# Centering Student Voices

- Address the educational, emotional and physical needs of Pitt survivors by listening to their concerns and implementing their ideas.
- Create formalized processes to collect feedback and guidance from students.
  - Focus Groups - Support From Campus Researchers
  - Prevention Friend's Cohort - Support From Student Organizations
  - Support from Student Organizations
  - Development of Survivor Support Workshop Facilitated by Peer Educators
  - Prevention Assistant Program

# Student Leaders

- **Prevention Assistants**

- Paid Student Positions
- Address Programming Needs
- Fill Gaps They Identify on Campus
- Regular Resource Sharing Outreach Engagements
- Weave Survivor Support into All Their Work

- **Sexual Agency Facilitation and Education (SAFE) Peer Education**

- Peer Educators
- Paid Student Positions
- Peer Educators “Supporting Survivors” Workshop Developed by Peers for Peers

## Supporting a Survivor The Basic Framework





# Survivor Support Resource Locker

- A Resource Locker for Survivors of IPV and Sexual Violence
- Affirmations, Supplies, and Resources
- An Idea Developed by Students
- Open to All Campus Community Members



Have questions?  
Reach out to:  
[pittprevention@pitt.edu](mailto:pittprevention@pitt.edu)

Open 9 am - 4 pm  
Wednesdays and  
Fridays &  
12:00 pm - 5 pm  
Tuesdays



# Healing Through the Arts

- The Teal Gallery
- Poetry Workshops
- Open Mic Nights
- Trauma Informed Painting
- Monthly Book Club



## STORIES OF HEALING

Open Mic Night with C4C to honor survivors of sexual assault.

Friday, April 19th | 6 pm-8 pm

The C4C Understory (Cathedral of Learning Basement CL B50)

PREVENTION  
AT Pitt



- Share a personal reflection, work of creative writing, or written work that inspired you through your healing journey.
- Supporters are welcome!
- Sweets and tea will be provided
- Performance slots are limited, please register to guarantee a performance spot- we will open the floor after registered performers have finished.

Register Below





# Prevention Family Lunch





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**Carrie Benson, MEd**

Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education,  
University of Pittsburgh

[carrie.benson@pitt.edu](mailto:carrie.benson@pitt.edu)



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**Willa Campbell, MPH**

Lead Prevention Educator,  
University of Pittsburgh

[wic35@pitt.edu](mailto:wic35@pitt.edu)

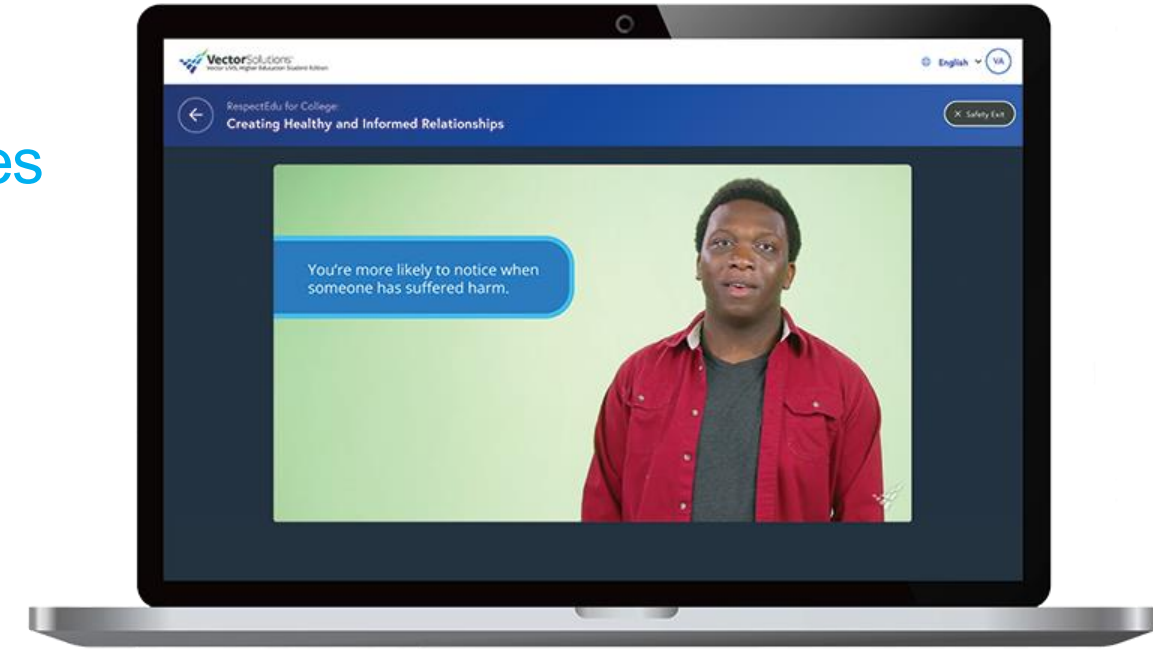


# How Vector Solutions Can Help

## RespectEdu Sexual & Relationship Violence Prevention Courses

An exciting new evolution of Vector's Sexual Assault Prevention courses-reshaping what is possible and raising the bar for sexual assault prevention education.

**Specialized courses for college students, graduate students, community learners, modern learners, international students, athletes, and athletic staff.**



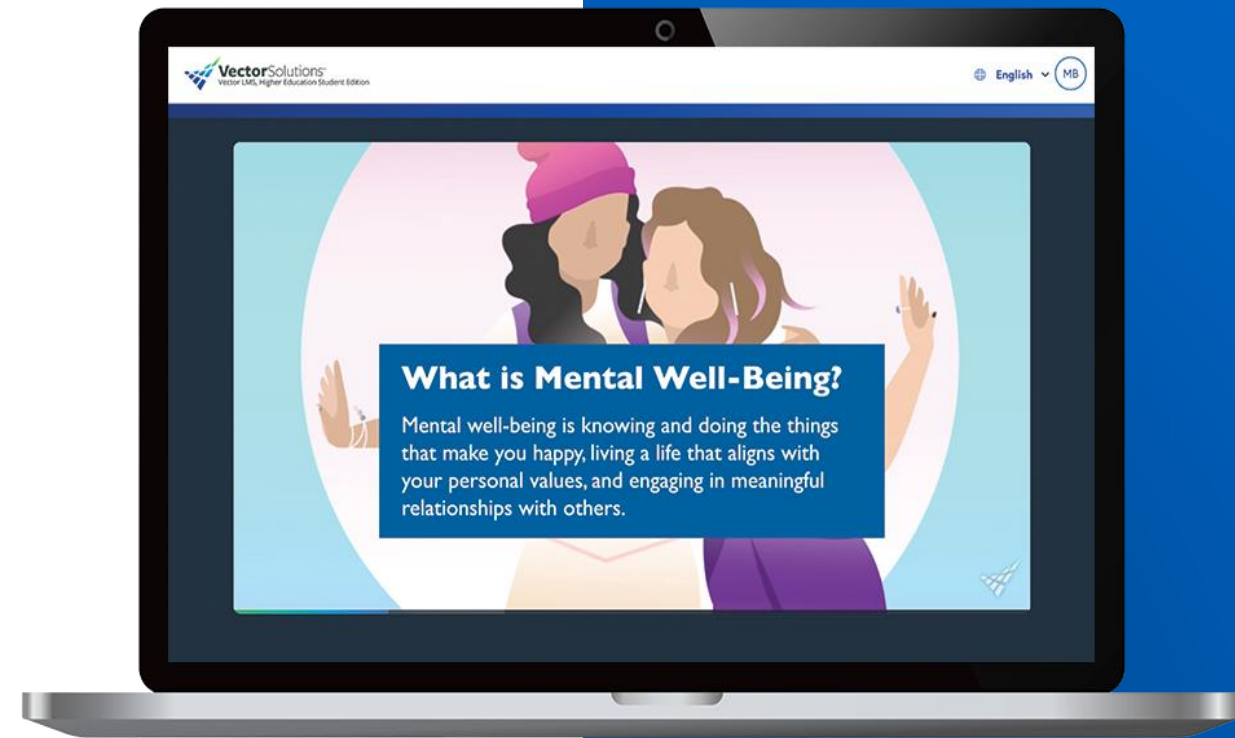
### Enhancements:

- Balances compliance-based sexual assault prevention content and proactive, skill-based learning.
- Aligns with CDC prevention guidelines, Title IX, VAWA standards, and public health and trauma-informed care best practices.
- Designed from a student's perspective, focusing on well-being and essential skills for building successful relationships.
- Takes a holistic approach to the student environment, considering all aspects of their well-being - physical, mental, emotional, and social.
- Features multiple adaptive learning pathways with personalized content based on student choices, including a survivor support path.

# How Vector Solutions Can Help

## Additional Evidence-Based Training for Students

- AlcoholEdu for College (*newly updated!*)
- Substance Misuse Prevention
- Mental Well-Being
- Hazing Prevention
- Athletics
- Skills for Building Community
- Career Readiness & Personal Development
- USCAH Athletic Safety

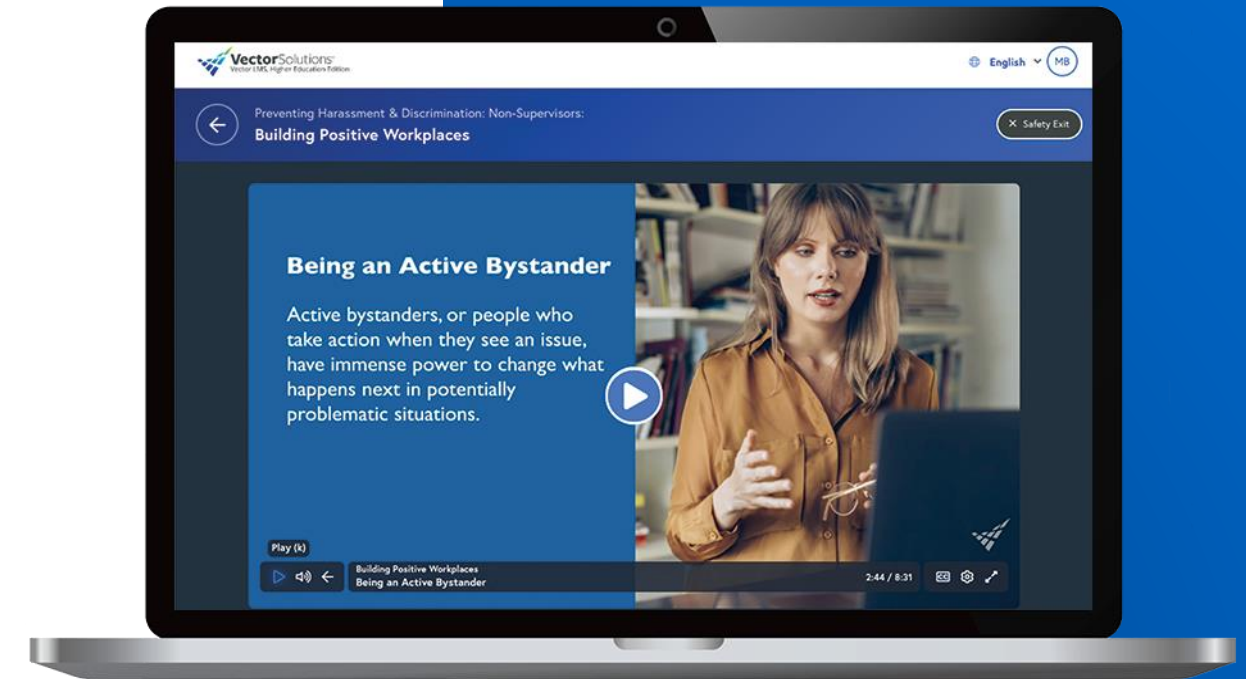




# How Vector Solutions Can Help

## High-Impact Training for Faculty and Staff

- Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Assault Prevention
- Skills for Building Community
- Athletics
- Security and Risk Mitigation
- Health and Human Safety
- Human Resources and Workforce Management
- Environmental Health and Facilities Management
- Facilities Maintenance
- USCAH Athletic Safety



# Q&A

Note: If your question doesn't get answered during the allotted time, we will follow up by email.

**Additional Questions?** Visit us at [VectorSolutions.com/HE](https://VectorSolutions.com/HE)







Thank You!

