
**McCluskey Center for
Violence Prevention**

Annual Report



From the director

As I reflect on the inaugural year of the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention, I feel proud of the movement we are building. I can feel shifts happening all around me—every time we speak to another group about what the MCVP is doing, every meeting at which there is a collective “aha” moment, and most especially when people who haven’t historically been invited to the table of violence prevention “experts” speak up and share an idea they’ve been simmering. It’s magical. This is the difference we’re hoping to make—engaging multiple voices in our work and making people feel they matter enough to share and help drive change.

When I think about the early successes that I am most proud of, the following come to mind:

Relationship and community building

Despite being in the middle of a pandemic that required literally every piece of work to occur via Zoom, I am incredibly proud of the number of faculty, staff, and students engaged in the center’s work. We established five working groups, each with a specific focus, that meet monthly to strategize the many ways to create a culture change on campus. That so many people have volunteered to contribute their time, skills, and talents to our collective work gives me hope.

Shifts in thinking

At our working group meetings, we provide educational opportunities for group members—readings, videos, podcasts, and other materials—to consider, discuss, and expand understanding. The discussions have been rich and insightful and have prompted numerous ideas to shift our campus culture.

Specific programs

- The **Community and Identity-Based Education Program**, specifically geared toward centering and engaging historically minoritized communities in violence prevention work, has launched and recruitment is in progress.
- The **Education Working Group** is planning a fall education series with monthly workshops, a book club, and an on-campus lecture featuring Jennifer S. Hirsch and Shamus Khan, authors of *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus*.
- Twelve faculty and staff engaged in a four-part workshop called **Beyond Mandatory Reporting Faculty/Staff Education Series** designed to support them in developing a specific action plan for addressing relationship sexual violence (RSV) within their circle of influence. Participants have committed to engaging

their staff members in professional development and working to provide opportunities for students within their colleges to further engage around issues of RSV.

- **Our blog** is publishing insightful commentary from a variety of authors from the community. We published 10 posts in spring semester and nine of those posts were authored by undergraduate students, detailing their perspectives and insights that are so crucial to this movement.
- We completed data collection for the University of Utah's landscape study on **intimate partner violence (IPV)**. This work is being led by three faculty, three graduate students, and three undergraduate students. They conducted focus groups with 55 U students to better understand the language we should use to discuss IPV with student. Additionally, the study included an analysis of language and topics explored in educational programs and policy related to IPV at the U.

Looking forward

We have an ambitious agenda. In our first year, we had relatively strong participation from faculty and staff, but less so from students. We do believe the pandemic played a role in that since we were not being able to attend meetings of student organizations and reached limits for participants on Zoom meetings. We are excited to work more intently on engaging students in the coming academic year!



We also will continue educational programs aimed at shifting our thinking from response to prevention and interrupting myths about relationship sexual violence and safety. Our research work will continue with the launch of the patterns of perpetration study in Fall 2021. And we will continue work to develop education/intervention programs for students that explore their engagement in harmful behaviors.

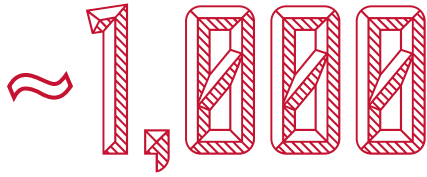
I am grateful to you all for your support and ongoing interest in the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention and hope you'll be able to join some of our activities next year.

Sincerely,

Chris Linder

Director, McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention

By the Numbers 2020-21



**people attended /
heard presentations**

- Community advocates
- University of Maryland Baltimore County student organization
- *U Rising* podcast
- MCVP campus launch town hall
- Center for Student Wellness staff
- Division of Student Affairs staff
- University of Denver graduate course
- Rape Recovery Center staff and board
- Ray A. Olpin Union staff
- SAFE student organization
- Center for Disability and Access
- Student Safety Summit
- Presidential Interns
- Academic advisors
- Title IX coordinators
- U Safety directors
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County panel
- University of Oklahoma Peer Educators
- U to You



**people signed up for
our 5 working groups**

- Shifting the Narrative: Campus Education Series
- Community and Identity-Based Education
- Engaging Men
- Patterns of Perpetration Research
- Intervening to Stop Harm



consultations conducted

- USHE Safety Conference planning
- Ohio Department of Higher Education Student Summit
- U Office of General Counsel
- OEO Title IX regulations implementation
- ASUU legislation (2x)
- College of Science Educational Series
- College of Business Educational Series
- External faculty mentoring program (2x)
- Fraternity/Sorority Life
- Athletics Department
- Clery alerts issued by Chief Safety Office



student staff members hired and trained

- Highly engaged in professional development and learning about this topic
- Created templates and assisted in presentations
- Worked on social media, blog, and newsletter



student organizations attended outreach meetings

- UnsafeU
- SAFE
- It's on Us
- Peer ACES
- ASUU Student Resources Board
- Public Safety



campus partner groups attended outreach meeting

- Center for Student Wellness
- Department of Public Safety
(*Division of Community Services*)
- Dean of Students/Student Accountability
- Gender-Based Violence Consortium
- Health Sciences Domestic Violence Committee
- Office of Equal Opportunity/Title IX
- Office of Violence Against Women Grant Group



research projects/programs launched

- Landscape/language study conducted two focus groups with 55 participants
- Patterns of Perpetration study has developed pilot survey instrument
- Community and Identity-Based Educational Programming proposal and curriculum in progress; recruitment begun

Meet our new program coordinator!



“In this position, I hope to learn about how each member of a campus community must work toward ending violence with their unique forms of formal and informal power.”

We are thrilled to announce that we have hired Swee-Yang Ashley Yong as the program coordinator for the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention. Ashley will officially assume her position on June 1, 2021.

“I am so excited to have Ashley joining us,” said Chris Linder, center director. “Her enthusiasm is contagious and her nuanced understanding of the connections between power, oppression, and violence will contribute significantly to the future direction

of the center. She has a strong understanding of student development, diversity, and relationship and sexual violence that the U's community will benefit from tremendously."

Ashley has a bachelor's degree in strategic communication from the University of Missouri and a master's degree in higher education and student affairs from The Ohio State University.

"I'm truly in awe that I get to do relationship and sexual violence prevention work through a power-conscious and intersectional framework that perfectly marries my values of advocacy and justice," Ashley said.

Ashley currently works at The Ohio State University where she is the social justice engagement graduate administrative assistant for the OSU Multicultural Center. In this role, she was the co-creator of CORE, an eight-week intercultural cohort designed to promote social justice through education and dialogue on inclusive leadership. She facilitated more than 80 workshops on identity, privilege, oppression, microaggressions, responding to bias, and related topics. She also advised the student organization Advocates for Inclusion and Diversity through Education.

Ashley has been a volunteer advocate for the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio, responding to and supporting survivors. During an internship at the University of Michigan, Ashley proposed enhancements to the Science-Based Treatment, Accountability, and Risk



Reduction for Sexual Assault program to address overrepresentation of men of color in reporting data and other deficiencies.

"In this position, I hope to learn about how each member of a campus community must work toward ending violence with their unique forms of formal and informal power," Ashley said. "Although the center may serve as the backbone and expert in violence prevention on campus, it is imperative that campus stakeholders understand the center as providing a lens of support for the work we must individually and collectively do."

Our working groups have been hard at work

Education Group

Co-chairs: Allie Moore and Tayler Bseiso

The education group is planning a fall education series that will include monthly workshops, a book club, and an on-campus lecture featuring Jennifer S. Hirsch and Shamus Khan, authors of *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus*.

Engaging Men Group

Co-chairs: Matt Phister and Meligha Garfield

This working group is designed to provide a space for students who identify as male to explore their gender socialization and develop a healthy sense of masculinity. The co-chairs are working with staff in the Center for Student Wellness to develop a men's engagement program. In its initial meetings, the group has focused on building awareness of intersectional issues surrounding masculinity through readings, podcasts, videos, and discussion.

Community and Identity-Based Education

Chair: Chris Linder

This program is specifically geared toward centering and engaging historically minoritized communities in violence prevention work. This includes people of color, people who identify as queer or trans and people with a disability—all of whom experience persistently high rates of violence but have historically been left out of mainstream educational and awareness conversations on relationship and sexual violence. The group has launched, and recruitment of graduate students is in progress. We plan to develop educational programming specific to these identity-based groups, beginning with a fall course that will provide historical and nuanced exploration of the complex dynamics of relationship sexual violence and oppression among college students. Graduate students will develop and facilitate a series of workshops in Spring 2022 Semester for undergraduate students.

Intervening to Stop Harm

Co-chairs: Brian Burton and Kristy Bartley

This working group has met three times since January 2021, with participation of more than 25 students, staff, and faculty from across campus. Our initial focus was building a shared and solid foundational understanding of relationship sexual violence through literature review, meetings with practitioners and scholars, and group discussion of possible initiatives. We are working on:

- Developing an intervention for students accused of and/or found to have engaged in sexual misconduct
- Designing an educational program for students who have caused harm

Additional topics we plan to explore in the future include restorative options for survivors, empathy-building initiatives, and ways to identify and remove barriers to personal accountability.

Patterns of Perpetration Research Group

Co-chairs: Chris Linder and Kwynn Gonzalez-Pons

This research group has conducted a literature review, recruited a research team and met with a longitudinal study expert whose work will serve as a model for our study. We expect to have a survey ready to administer by Fall 2021. Our goal is to better understand perpetration behaviors and those who engage in perpetration, with a focus on identifying behaviors that can be modified to reduce relationship violence.

Check out our blog



It's not enough to just "know"

by Michelle Valdes, April 6, 2021

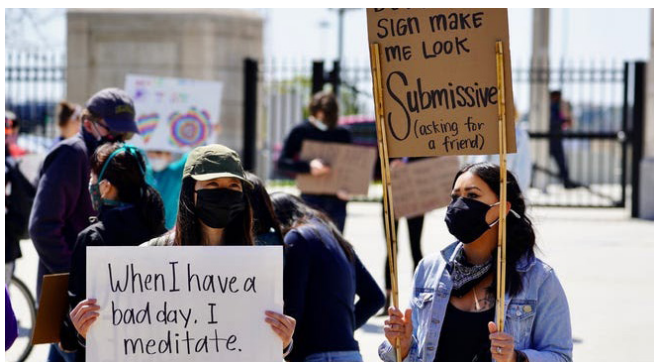
Not only did we understand the implications that intimate partner violence and interpersonal abuse could have on our local community, but we were also witnessing the tragedy that unfolds from the very instances we learned about in our classroom.



How bills related to RSV fared in Utah Legislature this year

by Brooke Adams, March 29, 2021

Before the final tick of the clock ended the 2021 session of the Utah Legislature, lawmakers considered or acted on about a dozen bills related to the work of the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention.



Misogyny and Asian hate

by Chris Linder and Allie Moore, March 29, 2021

As we keep listening to the news about the mass murder of primarily Asian women in Atlanta, we grow more and more disheartened by our society's collective understanding of misogyny, white supremacy, and hate.



The structure of the MCVP

by MaryJo Dalton, March 15, 2021

The MCVP differs from other centers on campus in that our sole focus is primary prevention. We undertake primary prevention through education, research, professional development, engaging campus community members in primary prevention, designing specialized programs, and more.



Disability and RSV

by Caroline Lalliss, March 8, 2021

Disabled people experience intimate partner violence, or IPV, and relationship sexual violence, or RSV at approximately twice the rate of those without a disability. So when disabled students go to college they are at a point in their life where being victimized by an intimate partner is at an all-time high.



Pepper sprays, tasers, and trainings

by MJ Chevesich, February 8, 2021

While I in no way claim to know all of the answers and have all of the solutions, the point is that once we start shifting our thinking from victims to perpetrators we can stop spending time and brainpower on pepper sprays and tasers and instead use clinic (or organizational) resources to answer the bigger question.



Nerds can be creeps too

by Tayler Bseiso, February 22, 2021

I, as a person who was raised as a girl, have always been expected to take responsibility for my emotions. That alone could be a whole other post but the gist of it is that our society consistently allows cis men to find outside causes to their emotions whereas cis women are told their hormones make them too emotional as is.



What we do at the U

Introduction to the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention, February 2, 2021

The center's inaugural director is Chris Linder, a professor in the College of Education and Special Assistant to the President for Violence Prevention and Education. Linder and the center's advisory board introduced its goals, mission, and structure during this webinar.



What is the power-conscious framework?

by Blessing Heelis, February 2, 2021

The framework assumes three things: power is omnipresent, power, and identity are inextricably linked, and identity is socially constructed and its meaning changes over time.



What is primary prevention

by Chris Linder, October 6, 2020

As we work to address relationship and sexual violence on college campuses and beyond, we often end up focusing on responding to violence after it happens, rather than working to prevent it from happening in the first place.



Exploring myths: Stranger danger

by Tayler Bseiso, January 26, 2021

All these have one idea in common: that it has always been, and still is, my responsibility to be on high alert for strangers who may have questionable intentions.

About the MCVP



The center is named in honor of **Lauren McCluskey**, a student-athlete who was in her final year at the U when she was murdered in 2018 by a man she briefly dated. The center seeks to honor Lauren's life and legacy by working to eliminate relationship and sexual violence among U.S. college students by focusing on primary prevention through education and culture change.

How to support our work

Our work is funded by generous donors. Your contributions allow us to continue our scholarship and research work to end relationship sexual violence on college campuses. Please give today by visiting **violenceprevention.utah.edu** and clicking the donate button.
