March 2023 Newsletter

A Message from Chris

As you know, we are always developing new programs, workshops, and strategies for addressing relationship and sexual violence among college students. You can keep up-to-date on our workshops through our educational page, but I want to draw your attention to two new ones, in case they would be helpful for your staff, classes or other groups.

Allie, Yulisa, Whitney, and Tillie recently developed a workshop that addresses harmful behavior and have facilitated this with several classes of first-year students. The workshop is titled “What is Harm?” and it is designed to get people thinking about harmful behaviors in our culture that have been normalized.

The point of the workshop is to help people think through how to respect other people’s boundaries and to recognize that something that may seem “normal” to them could cause harm to another person.

I also developed a new workshop called “Thinking like an Abolitionist to End Sexual Violence in Higher Education Contexts.” Building on the work of today’s great abolitionists, in this workshop we examine abolition as the practice of creating what we want our communities to look and feel like by focusing on non-carceral responses to violence, individual and collective healing, and engaging in what Mariame Kaba refers to as “one million experiments” to create a better world.

Please let us know if you’d be interested in having us facilitate a workshop with any group or organization you’re part of! You can reach out to us at cvp@utah.edu.

The MCVP is accepting applications from undergraduate students to work on sexual violence prevention projects during the 2023-24 academic year. Pay is $15/hour for 10-12 hours per week. Please share this link and help us get the word out!

Upcoming Events

• Giving Day 2023: The university will celebrate U Giving Day on March 28-29 this year. We hope you’ll consider giving to support our work! Click here to give.

• Re-envisioning Healing: Re-envisioning how to end sexual violence means imagining what a world without sexual violence would look like and how the often messy process of healing is central to this future-thinking. MCVP is hosting a workshop on accountability practices and anti-oppression justice frameworks, such as restorative and transformative justice, that are key to ending sexual violence and creating a world where sexual harm has neither place nor power.

The workshop will take place on Thursday, April 13, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m in Parlor A at the Union. To register, visit the link included here. More about the event and our awesome group of facilitators at this link.

• Save the date!: Our year-end celebration will be Wednesday, April 26, 2023, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 5160 of the Spencer Fox Eccles Business Building. Invitations will be coming soon! A shoutout to Lyn Hinckley and Kathie Miller!

For the second year in row, our student, Lyn Hinckley, engaged one of the MCVP’s community advocates in the annual U of U Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus recognition. The award is given to alumni for outstanding professional achievements, public service and/or commitment to the U.

Kathie Miller received an Honorary Alumna award in 2022, recognition given to an individual who did not attend the U and who has contributed significantly to the advancement of the university through personal involvement, including donations, volunteer work and/or other forms of support.

Our warmest congratulations to Lyn and Kathie! Watch the videos shared at the Founders Day celebration at this link.

The Conversation

The MCVP blog, The Conversation, features first-person essays on topics and current events related to sexual violence prevention. Have something you’d like to say? We welcome submissions! Send them to brooke.adams@utah.edu.

Click on the images below to read recent posts by Tillie Powell and Brenda Payan, two of our student staff members.

Student Projects!

Here are brief descriptions of additional projects launched by our student staff during spring semester:

• Yulisa Padilla presented a workshop titled “What is Harm?” that explores the continuum of harmful behaviors specific to college students. Yulisa is a senior majoring in sociology, with minors in business and in health.
Sam Judd-Kim will present a workshop for queer students during Pride Week at the U that is focused on understanding power dynamics and dominant narratives in relationship and sexual violence specific to queer communities. Sam is a senior studying philosophy and music.

Jilly Mcbane is creating a three-episode podcast that breaks down myths and misconceptions about relationship and sexual violence and what listeners can do about it. Jilly says her aim "is to share information in a relatable, easy, and digestible manner for college students who want to be a part of the solution, but may not know where to start." The podcast will air in April.

In the News

Director Chris Linder and Niah Grimes of Morgan State University served as guest editors for a special issue of the Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education. The issue focuses on critical and transformative methods for studying sexual violence among college students.

Students Lead Conversations on Consent at McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention Event (The Daily Utah Chronicle, 02/15/23)