

2020 ANNUAL STATUS REPORTS

PREVENTION OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCY ON CAMPUS and the PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

Submitted by Ann Clemmer, Assistant Director, on behalf of Director Maria Markham, Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

Senator Missy Irvin, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare,
and Labor Committee

Representative Jack Ladyman, Chair, House Committee on Public Health,
Welfare, and Labor Committee.

Senator Jane English, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair, House Committee on Education

ANNUAL STATUS REPORT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION ON CAMPUS (ACT 563 OF 2017)

Under Act 563 of 2017, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was directed to develop an action plan to address the prevention of sexual assault on college and university campuses and to submit annual reports on implementation by November 1 to the Arkansas General Assembly via the House and Senate Education Committees and the House and Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committees. The Division of Higher Education of the Department of Education has collected the annual campus status reports for the 2019-2020 academic year, as required by the legislation. The division received reports from all 33 campuses of public higher education institutions in the state.

The legislative requirements for the action plan direct Arkansas public colleges and universities:

- 1) To incorporate sexual assault prevention into advising and student orientation;
- 2) To integrate information into academic courses as appropriate;
- 3) To identify opportunities to raise awareness and provide resources for sexual assault prevention across the entire student population;
- 4) To identify available grants and partnerships to assist with the work;
- 5) To collaborate with sources for access to care; and
- 6) To identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention and reduction of sexual assault.

The issue of sexual assault has continued to be addressed seriously by all our campuses. Not only have they incorporated this into student orientation, they have put in place extra staff training, extra safety measures, and additional activities and resources for students. On quite a few campuses, student groups have taken on sexual assault awareness and prevention projects.

This year, like last, we saw our colleges and universities embracing resources available to them through the various national campaigns, aimed at improving awareness on college and university campuses:

- 1) The Red Flag Campaign (www.theredflagcampaign.org)
- 2) Walk a Mile in her Shoes Campaign (www.walkamileinher shoes.org)
- 3) Bystander Intervention Training
- 4) What You Were Wearing
- 5) "No More" Campaign (nomore.org)
- 6) Clothesline Project (clotheslineproject.info)

These programs were listed by multiple campuses as part of their efforts to prevent sexual assault by educating students about the issue. Links to the selected reports and to the national campaigns used in Arkansas have been posted on the Division of Higher Education website (adhe.edu).

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

Under Act 943 of 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was directed to develop an action plan to address unplanned pregnancies on college campuses and to submit annual reports on implementation by November 1 to the Arkansas General Assembly via the House and Senate Education Committees and the House and Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committees.

The legislation directs higher education institutions in **nine** areas. Among those directives colleges and universities are: to identify methods of addressing the problem of unplanned pregnancy, to collaborate with health centers, to identify a measure of success, and to incorporate into academic coursework “as appropriate”. The legislation mandates that campuses include in their orientations information on the prevention of unplanned pregnancy.

The annual reports from the two-year and four-year campuses have been collected by the Division of Higher Education for 2019-2020. The department is able to report that all eleven public four-year universities and all 22 two-year campuses have submitted reports and are in compliance with Act 943.

A compliant school has met the requirements of the law, but a number of schools did more than just comply. Of the nine areas of effort mentioned in the statute, campuses were active in quite a few of these, in spite of an interrupted “in-person” year due to COVID-19. All campuses report incorporating information on unplanned pregnancy into their student orientation and virtually all report collaborative efforts with community and state organizations. Notably, all of the four-year universities have incorporated information on the prevention of unplanned pregnancy into at least some of their academic coursework. Additional resources are offered by the majority of campuses, both four-year and two-year. An effort is underway to schedule a zoom meeting to discuss best practices with campuses looking for ways to grow their activities. ADHE has placed this report, along with reports from select campuses, on the ADHE website (adhe.edu).