Help Prevent Sexual Assault and Misconduct

While Jefferson Davis Community College is a safe place to pursue your educational goals, sexual assault and sexual misconduct, such as domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, is a nationwide problem on college campuses.

In January 2014, President Barack Obama established the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault and in April 2014, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policies and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the Clery Act) was amended in an effort to make college students safer from sexual assault and misconduct.

For more information visit:

http://campussaveact.org/
www.jdcc.edu

One important strategy for reducing sexual assault and misconduct on college campuses is to engage all students. We all know that violent crime involves victims and perpetrators. But, there is a group that outnumbers victims and perpetrators together. That group is bystanders!

What is a Bystander?
There are different circumstances in which one can be considered a bystander. He or she might have knowledge that an incident of sexual violence will occur or is occurring, or may witness sexual assault or misconduct firsthand.

A bystander could have knowledge about an assault that has already occurred. Regardless of the circumstances, we all have a choice whether we will be passive bystanders, standing by and taking insufficient or no action, or whether we will be active bystanders who are engaged and taking the necessary action to prevent sexual violence. An active bystander has the power to help prevent sexual violence from occurring and get survivors of assault the help they need.

Being an Active Bystander
The most important thing to remember as an active bystander is to not do anything that puts your safety at risk! Call on others, such as the police, for help. Always remember that if you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 911.

How can we make a difference as active bystanders?
The first step in becoming an active bystander is making the choice to be involved.

Why is this choice so important?
Let’s take the example of the role men can play in preventing sexual violence toward women, a critical problem on college campuses. (According to the White House Task Force to protect Students from Sexual Assault, one in five women are sexually assaulted in college.) We know from studies that men have a higher likelihood of intervening to stop or prevent a sexually violent situation when they perceive that other men are likely to intervene as well.

A man who chooses to intervene may not only protect a woman in a dangerous situation, but also may influence the men around him, helping to foster a social culture that encourages active bystanders and deters sexual violence.

How do you become an active bystander?
An active bystander recognizes when there is a problem, and decides to take action and knows how to safely do so. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is there a problem? Does someone need to help?
- Is it safe to intervene? What are my options?
- What should I do? Should I call on others to help?