It's On Us
Keeping Pennsylvania College Campuses Safe

Presenter:
David Stewart
Pennsylvania Department of Education
It’s On Us PA

• It's On Us PA is a statewide campaign that invites everyone to play a role in ending sexual assault. Building off the momentum of the national It’s On Us movement, It's On Us PA brings together college and university presidents, superintendents, administrators, teachers, students, families, and community members to reframe the conversation around sexual violence and pledge to be part of the solution.
It’s On US PA’s four major goals

1. **Provide an education program for students in consultation with a local rape crisis center and domestic violence program** regarding sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, and provide resources and services available for victims.

2. **Improve awareness, prevention, reporting, and response systems** regarding sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking prevention, in schools, colleges, and universities to better serve all students.

3. **Remove and reduce barriers** that prevent survivors of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking from reporting and/or accessing vital resources by creating a more consistent, empowering, reporting process for student survivors of gender-based violence.

4. **Demonstrate significant, proactive, and sustainable leadership** to change institutional culture by challenging Pennsylvania’s education leader-including college and university presidents-as well as students, faculty, staff, families, and communities to pledge to improve their institutions’ climate.
Building a legacy of support

• 2016 Pennsylvania becomes the first “It’s On Us” state
• This year, the Shapiro Administration increased funding to $1.5 million
• Total award amounts since 2016 exceed $8.7 million
  • 100 different colleges and schools across Pennsylvania
  • 35 of the 2023-2024 awardees previously received the It’s On Us PA grant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>RECIPIENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023-2024</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pennsylvania state policies evolve

• **ACT 16 of 2019 (XX-J)**
  - Clear, understandable, written policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence
  - Provides protection to victims/witnesses from institutions conduct policy violations
  - Establishes anonymous reporting system

• **ACT 55 of 2022 (XX-G)**
  - Made provisions applicable to Private Licensed Schools in addition to Institutions of Higher Education
  - Drafts a definition of consent
  - Requires Memorandums of Understanding with rape crisis and domestic violence crisis centers
  - Requires educational programming created in consultation with a rape crisis center and a domestic violence crisis center
Examples from schools

• Partnered with a local high school to put on a play and featured a talk back session with audience in 21-22

• Partnered with a local medical center for afterhours student crisis support through 19-20 grant year and continued partnership into 20-21

• Implementation of “Togetherall” online peer-to-peer support community, which touts the opportunity to “share experiences in a safe anonymous space”

• Created a “unique, cutting edge, relevant, and authentic film-based learning interaction addressing sexual assault and intervention prevention from a student’s perspective”
The work continues

SPRING 2023 INAUGRAL IT’S ON US PA CONVENING – GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH CONTENT EXPERTS IN ADDRESSING ISSUES TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE

- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect
- It’s On US National Educational Program Pa. Chapters
- PSAC Playbook
Trending in postsecondary education

In an interview conducted with Tracey Vitchers, the Executive Director of It’s On Us National, it was reported:

- Students are unhappy with the online prevention programs Students want more information on “what to do” vs “what not to do”
- Young men feel that their experiences are not reflective in prevention education

Christa Cobb, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at PASSHE reported:

- An uptick in phishing cases among some PASSHE institutions
Resource Partners

It’s On US National
www.itsonus.org

Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect
www.pcar.org

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.pcadv.org
The mission of the Department of Education is to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. Further, the Department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the commonwealth by ensuring that technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether children or adults.

• David Stewart-Pennsylvania Department of Education
dalstewar@pa.gov