

## **2016-17 Unit Annual Report: Women's Center**

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### **A. Introduction**

The NC State Women's Center is one of four campus community centers housed under the Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity (OIED). For the 2016-2017 academic year, the mission of the Women's Center was "to be a catalyst and resource advancing gender equity on campus. Through education, advocacy and leadership development, the Center provides programming, leadership opportunities and support services to members of the campus community". Beginning in January 2017, Center staff began the process of revisiting our work as a Center. Our newly updated framework, mission and vision are as follows:

The Women's Center directly serves all students at NC State while also serving as a resource, connection, and partner for faculty and staff at the institution. We take an intersectional approach to serving the campus community. Our practices are social constructivist in nature and rooted in social justice education and trauma informed care.

#### **Mission**

We build and create a community of authentic and engaged allies and leaders to pursue gender equity and social justice; enhancing the campus climate through education, advocacy, support, and leadership development.

#### **Vision**

The NC State Women's Center serves as a resource and catalyst; using evidence based practices for transformative learning on both the individual and institutional level around issues of gender, equity, and interpersonal violence.

## **B. Programs and Initiatives**

### **Year Long Efforts**

#### **Action Teams**

This year, the Women's Center piloted "Actions Teams" as a way to engage students who were looking for volunteer and connection opportunities at the Women's Center. Teams were led by Women's Center student staff and were meant as a way to engage students in discussion and creating programming opportunities around the following focus areas; Global Gender Issues, Wellness, Masculinity, and Community Engagement and Outreach. Action teams had varying success this year.

#### **Advocacy Services**

*The Sexual Assault Helpline* is a 24/7 crisis line for survivors of stalking, relationship violence, and sexual assault. The Helpline provides on call advocacy services for students who needed resources, referrals or accompaniment to campus or community resources. Calls to the line continue to be low, and there are relatively few staff that are currently able to carry the phone. In addition, the Women's Center is not a confidential resource, which also may hinder students from utilizing this resource.

**New this year:** During the summer of 2016 stickers and magnets promoting the helpline were placed in all university bathrooms and residence halls.

*Direct Survivor Support* has continued to increase from years past. This year over 50 students were seen and provided with some level of advocate support. The support provided ranged from academic accommodation to accompaniment to court or student conduct hearings.

#### **Book Club (January - April & May - June)**

After a successful Book Club partnership with the African American Cultural Center in Fall 2016, the Women's Center continued a book club in both Spring 2017 and during Summer Session 1. During the Spring Semester roughly 20 participants, a mix of students, faculty and staff, read *The Gifts of Imperfection*, by Dr. Brene Brown. This book takes seemingly dark emotions such as fear, guilt, shame, and sorrow and uses them to lead us towards what she calls wholehearted living, the art of embracing your full self. Women's Center staff and student interns facilitated weekly discussions with the book club participants. To wrap up the semester-long experience, International Coaching Federation (ICF) Coach Dr. Sackeena Gordon Jones, facilitated the culmination event helping the group put what they learned into action.

There are currently 26 students, faculty and staff signed up for the Summer Session 1 book club, *Rising Strong* by Dr. Brene Brown.

## **Drop-in Counseling (Spring 2017)**

**New this year**, the Women's Center hosted staff from the Counseling Center for Drop-in Counseling hours in the Spring Semester. Drop-ins occurred from 2pm - 4pm every Monday. Counselors utilized the lounge area in the Women's Center, unoccupied staff offices were utilized as needed as well. This was a successful partnership that we hope to continue in the future.

## **Feminist Fridays (Various Dates)**

**New this year**, Feminist Fridays is a discussion series led and facilitated by students with a focus on intersectional feminist topics. This series began in Fall semester with Women's and Gender Studies Intern, Mary Chamblee. Graduate Program Assistant Angela Gay then continued with the discussion series during the Spring semester. Angela added an interest session as well as incorporating one-on-one meetings with all presenters prior to their presentations. Comments about the Feminist Fridays were that the Spring semester sessions were more diverse in content and facilitators. There was a moderate attendance in all sessions, however, the most widely attended sessions were those in which the facilitator personally invited people to attend. At the orientation, there was an abundance of interest and almost all facilitators who signed up were able to lead their session. There were not enough sessions for everyone who was interested in facilitating a discussion. One noticeable feature is that there needs to be a community around Feminist Fridays, which connects back to students' involvement in the Women's Center.

### **Topics covered this year include:**

9/16	Media Representation facilitated by Lauren Frey
10/14	Victim Blaming and Domestic Violence facilitated by Maggie Schroeder
10/28	Role Models and Representations facilitated by Sam Alverson
11/4	Womanism vs Feminism facilitated by Zakiya Covington
11/18	Education Empowering Women facilitated by Asha Anad
1/27	Womanism facilitated by Zakiya Covington
2/3	Black Feminist Ideology facilitated by Jasmine Cannon
2/10	Role Models & Representation facilitated by Sam Alverson
2/17	Class, Race and Feminism facilitated by Naila Segule
3/17	Sex Work and Society facilitated by Meredith Biechele
3/24	Why Aid When You Have the Power to Lead facilitated by Destinie Statum
3/31	Complex Stories facilitated by Jemilia Davis
4/7	Mind the Gap: How to Overcome Barriers in a Male Dominated Field facilitated by Erica Moore
4/21	Cultural Relativism and Feminism facilitated by Fri Momin
4/28	Body Positivity facilitated by Kat Kirby

## Intersectional Film Series (Monthly)

**New this year**, this series explores intersecting identities, with a focus on gender-related social justice issues, through a variety of highly praised and thought-provoking films. Each screening was followed by a conversation with a special guest facilitator and included popcorn. In order to address a 2016 Women's Center focus group outcome, high attention was placed on identifying graduate students to engage through facilitation roles. Each film averaged 25-30 participants. Outcomes for this series including helping participants learn how gender intersects with other identities, connect personal experience, academic learning, and social action individually as well as in/through the creation of community with shared purpose and improved critical thinking.

### Film topics and showings included:

- 9/21/17      *No Mas Bebes* (Reproductive rights and Latinas)  
Facilitated by **Dr. Melissa Ramirez**, Teaching Assistant Professor & Microbiology Certificate Coordinator, Department of Biological Sciences and **Sara Jo (SJ) Taylor**, Graduate student in Chemical Engineering, Founder of the Feminist Scientists
- 10/19/16      *Semper Fi* (Sustainability, Camp Lejeune water contamination)  
Facilitated by **Rebekah Dunstan**, Program Coordinator, University Sustainability Office & Lauren Frey, Sustainability Peer (ecofeminism)
- 11/30/16      *Somewhere Between* (Chinese adoptees in contemporary America)  
Facilitated by Amy FitzGerald, MSW, independent adoption contract worker (and adoptive mother) & Kim Holland, Graduate Student in Sociology
- 2/2/2017      *Choice Not Chance* (Masculinity and men of color)  
Facilitated by College of Education and Graduate Black Alumni Chapter Cosponsors (Regina Gavin-Williams)
- 3/29/17      *The Light in Her Eyes* (Women claiming space within the mosque)  
Facilitated by Muslim Student Association & Samah Choudhury, UNC - PH.D Islamic Studies Student
- 4/27/17      *India's Daughter* (Sexual assault)  
Facilitated by Sarini Ettigi from the NC State Counseling Center and #HeforShe student organization

## Lunch, Learn & Lead Series (Monthly)

**New this year**, this series was focused on strengthening and expanding partnerships, and providing leadership development skills to participants. Each session averaged about 12 participants. Goals of this series included helping participants identify overt and covert everyday examples of sexism and a gendered society, recognize and be able to find multiple campus/community partners as resources available to foster their

holistic development and personalize learning and connect this knowledge with participants' daily life.

**Lunch and Learn topics and facilitators included:**

- 9/28/16      *Start Smart Salary Negotiation*  
Facilitated by Dr. Elizabeth Nelson and co-sponsored by Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)
- 10/11/16     *Men & Toxic Masculinity*  
Facilitated by Denee Jackson and Amani Manning and co-sponsored by Fraternity and Sorority Life
- 11/9/16      *Imposter Phenomenon*  
Facilitated by Dr. Alli DeFinish and Dr. Therese Garrett, Counseling Center
- 2/23/17      *Black Women, Media Representation & Self-love*  
Facilitated by Natalie Bullock Brown, Women and Gender Studies
- 4/6/17       *Clothesline Project - Arts Awareness and Healing*  
Facilitated by Sara Forcella, Women's Center and Kelly McConkey, Counseling Center
- 5/3/17       *Get Inspired - Personal Visioning*  
Facilitated by Sharlene Provilus from Write.Speak.Inspire

**The Movement Peer Educator Workshops (Fall and Spring)**

The Movement is a group of trained peer educators who facilitate workshops on issues of interpersonal violence and social justice. During the 2016-2017 academic year, The Movement led 33 workshops during the Fall and Spring semester, some that were prescheduled and some that were requested by students, faculty and staff. The total number of participants for all 33 workshops was 138 individuals.

**New this year:** We have revamped trainings so that they are less heteronormative and more inclusive of non-binary folx. We have added a workshop on supporting survivors, consent and stalking. We have also added new activities to some of our workshops such as Relationship Violence 101 and Bystander Intervention 101.

**Read to L.E.A.D. - Critical Literacy and Social Justice Youth Development (year long, weekly)**

2016-2016 site locations included:

- Boys and Girls Club (*Poe Library; 45 children and 45 mentors*)
- Neighbor to Neighbor (*10-15 children and 6-8 mentors*)
- Athens High School/SAY partnership (*4 girls/4 mentors*)
- YMCA Middle School (*15 girls/6 mentors*)

Read to L.E.A.D. fosters personal and social responsibility by providing opportunities for all participants to develop their critical thinking and diversity-related competencies in an asset-based mentoring model between university staff/students and youth from the Raleigh community.

Goals of this program include:

- Foster the personal and academic development of local youth that face systemic obstacles to realizing their full potential
- Build community, through the sharing of common interests and opportunities, where individuals feel valued and self-efficacy is cultivated
- Foster the personal, academic and professional capacity of NCSU student mentors and develop “equity-minded practitioners,” who are willing to engage in the necessary, and sometimes difficult, conversations that can lead to transformational change
- Create diversity-oriented research and evaluation opportunities for NCSU students and faculty
- Foster the advancement of the mission and goals of our partners as well the university’s commitment to its land grant charge and strategic plan goals.

Learning for NC State mentors specifically is grounded in the work of Corey Seemiller’s, Learning and Leadership Development with College Students and includes a focus on learning and reasoning, self-awareness and personal development, and personal and social responsibility / civic engagement.

**New this year** - Staff partnered with the Students Advocating for Youth (SAY) Living and Learning Program to add a new partnership site with Athens High School. The focus of this site was pairing NC State mentors with young high school women. In addition, leadership-focused programming and a book club were added with the Alexander YMCA site. All mentors and mentees in this program were given a copy of One Crazy Summer. The group discussed the primary topics from the book as well as other current issues that the girls brought up for discussion.

## **Social Media**

Beginning in January, The Women’s Center put a focus on social media and outreach. Angela Gay, Women’s Center Graduate Assistant took over all of our social media accounts and put a plan into action as to how to increase our followers and ensure consistent content was being added to our sites. Between January and March, the Women’s Center Facebook page increased likes by 114 (with 30 unlikes). Metrics showed that people engage the Women’s Center page daily. We averaged 41 daily engagements (anywhere from 2 - 234 individuals engaged daily). Our page reached an average of 562 people daily. All content that was posted to Facebook was also shared across our Twitter and Instagram accounts. The Women’s Center will continue to utilize social media as way to engage current students and alum in the work of the Center. We are currently talking about ways to build a Women’s Center “street team” as a way to increase our social media presence. Over the course of the year, the Center utilized social media for online discussions around current events, a way to market programming and involvement opportunities, and a means by which to showcase our

staff and students.

## **Women of Welch**

The NC State Women's Center continued to serve on the advisory board for the Women of Welch Living and Learning Community. Organizational change in University Housing changed the staff who were working with the Village. The Women's Center has committed to increased involvement. Angela Gay, Women's Center Graduate Assistant will be working with Lisa LaBarbera-Mascote, Women's Center Director, to enhance the Center's level of involvement to ensure that this program continues to be a success.

## **Yoga**

The Women's Center continues to provide low-cost weekly hatha yoga classes for NC State faculty and staff. The stress management/mindful yoga classes include many of the techniques of yoga tradition that have become scientific/medical stress reduction formats. We had 25 attendees throughout the course of the year. Sessions are offered at E.S. King Village to offer the evening yoga class at a more convenient time and to encourage the participation of E.S. King Village Residents.

## **One Time Programming Efforts and Partnerships**

### **Changing the Political Landscape: Young Voters' Impact in 2016 (September 15, 2016)**

This program was a partnership with the Women's Center and Together NC. Anastasia Somoza, an international disabilities rights advocate, and Irene Godinez, NC State alumni, led a discussion in the Women's Center focused on young voters' impact in 2016. Fifteen students attended the presentation and 90% indicated that they gained advocacy skills that would help them "do something about the issue."

### **Why Prison Is Personal and Political: Miega's Story (September 19, 2016)**

Presented as part of the common read calendar of events, Miega Walker continued the conversation from the common read author Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* Convocation speech. Miega, a NCSU MSW graduate and formerly incarcerated individual, shared her personal journey and statistics about women in the prison system. Her talk directly addressed the charge that Bryan Stevenson had left to the NC State community, to "get proximate, change the narrative that sustains injustice, be hopeful, and be willing to do uncomfortable things and be a witness." Sixty-three students attended this event.

## **Chocolate Festival (September 30, 2016)**

The Women's Center hosted the 13th annual Chocolate Festival, combining breast cancer awareness and wellness with chocolate sampling and a silent auction. The event was part of Parents and Families Weekend and was held in the Talley Student Union. Twenty-eight chocolatier and health and wellness vendors and one hundred twenty volunteers raised \$9,000 for Women's Center programs and the Kay Yow Breast Cancer Fund. There were 1,200 parents, students, faculty and staff that enjoyed the chocolate samplings and learned about breast cancer. The Chocolate Festival is a campus tradition and is designated #39 on the "Top 54 Things to Do at NC State" list.

**New This Year:** Women's Center requested Stories of Hope from breast cancer survivors. We had three submissions that we printed on poster boards and displayed in the lobby of Talley Student Union.

## **ASB Atlanta: Civil Rights and Gender Equity (October 6-9, 2016)**

In collaboration with Multicultural Student Affairs, this signature Alternative Fall Break continues to be a successful partnership between both offices. Thirteen students and two staff members participated in the trip this year. The ASB Atlanta Fall Break trip included a visit to the Greensboro Civil Rights Museum as well as serving at multiple agencies in Atlanta such as SisterSong, Girls Inc., Historic Westside Festival of Lights and visiting the Center for Civil and Human Rights. Learning outcomes for this trip cover areas such as recognizing how intersecting identities impact well-being, evaluating the role of diversity and equity in shaping attitudes and values, examining assumptions regarding gender equity and social justice issues, modeling social justice oriented communities and identifying and creating action plans.

Participants on this ASB trip noted that it allowed them to learn more about, "Civil & Human Rights, Reproductive Justice, and how to service a community" as well as "Intersectionality of race, gender, ability, and sexual orientation; Reproductive justice movement; Human rights/Civil Rights; Income Inequality; Gentrification and Community building." Students agreed or strongly agreed this trip helped them develop their education and advocacy skills.

**New this year:** This year, two pre-trip meetings were implemented to create a sense of belonging, and the term reproductive justice was explored as a team by sharing the experience of watching/discussing the film *No Mas Bebes* together. Post Atlanta, the team got together on multiple occasions included a group viewing of Ava DuVernay's film *13th* and discussion with Miera Walker, Second Chance Alliance Coordinator. The group also got together for a pre-Thanksgiving potluck. Thanks to the efforts of the OIED communications team, we were also able to create awareness of the program and its outcomes through a team photo wall display in the Women's Center.

## **Waccamaw Siouan Quilters (October 20, 2016)**

In partnership with Multicultural Student Affairs, a number of elders from the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe were hosted on campus during Diversity Education Week. Quilting is one



of many crafting techniques that Native Americans borrowed from European traditions and adapted into something unique to their culture. The need to survive through barter and public work was important in bringing quilting to the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, with quilting being a craft that meshed easily with women's work to provide bedding and domestic items for family use. Participants in this program had the opportunity to view quilts made by Waccamaw women, as well as learning more about the quilting process and its significance in Native communities. Thirty-five students, faculty and staff participated in this program.

### **The Scarlet Number: Perceptions and Labels of Students of Color in K-12 Classrooms (November 7, 2016)**

This panel discussion was a partnership between the Women's Center and the College of Education. Members of the panel discussed issues with labeling students of color in the K-12 math classroom from the perspectives of women of color who work in the field of education. The College of Education was the primary organizer of this event. Twenty-four students attended.

### **ASB Dominican Republic: Education, SES and Equity (December 31, 2016-January 4, 2017)**

Jennifer Castillo, Associate Director, served as the advisor for the ASB Dominican Republic Winter Alternative Break Trip. The trip focused on education for children as a sustainable solution to many of the issues of rural poverty, providing capacity-building programs that meet local needs as well as creating opportunities for disadvantaged children to overcome the challenges of poverty and transform their own lives.

**New this year**, this trip could be a continued ideal partnership to connect with either the Women's Center or MSA given the Read to Lead transition and the focus on youth work in the Dominican Republic.

## **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

### **These Hands Don't Hurt (September 21 and October 19, 2016)**

This primary prevention program helps raise awareness about relationship violence on campus and in the community. Participants were asked to paint their hands, leave a visible imprint on campus, and pledge to not commit violence against others. This year, two different dates were utilized to spread the word about the campaign and promote public events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Fifty students made handprints to add to the visible display.

### **Guante Social (Poetic) Justice (October 11, 2016)**

Guante, two-time national slam poetry winner joined us on campus for a workshop as well as "keynote" performance in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Guante performed his spoken word pieces and engaged with

students about the topic of masculinity, violence against women, and consent. Prior to his performance, we invited students to participate in a spoken word workshop where participants learned about activism and spoken word. Guante's spoken word performance was opened by three students/staff and one student group, who all performed their original work, representing diverse and marginalized voices including people of color and members of the LGBT community.

### **Women of Color and Domestic Violence Lunch and Learn (October 28, 2016)**

Facilitated by NC State alumni Dr. Shanita Brown, this event looked at the intersections of domestic violence and women of color. Specifically, Dr. Brown discussed added barriers that women of color have to face in order to report and get help while in an abusive relationship. Ten individuals participated in this event.

### **Spring Open House (January 12, 2017)**

The Women's Center hosted a Spring Open House which focused on awareness building regarding the programs, events, and groups sponsored by the Women's Center. This assisted in creating a community around Feminist Fridays as well as new members for The Movement. It was also an opportunity of fellowship for students already connected and involved with the Center. Fourteen students completed the Women's Center Involvement Form as a result of attending the Open House.

### **Expressive Arts Therapy Workshop for Survivors of IPV (February 2017)**

This new program was a collaboration between the Women's Center and the Counseling Center. A form of tertiary prevention, this workshop series gave survivors a chance to process their experiences with violence through artwork. Betsy Kelly and Kelly McConkey from the Counseling Center led participants in arts-based activities over the course of three weeks. Participants utilized clay, markers, oil pastels and other materials to connect and process their feelings related to their survivor identity. Seven individuals participated in this workshop series.

### **National Hijab Day (February 1, 2017)**

The Women's Center has co-sponsored National Hijab Day (previously called Beyond the Veil) with the Muslim Students Association for many years. This event includes a panel of students and alumni who talk about the different types of hijabs and the meaning behind them. Participants are encouraged to wear a hijab the day leading up to the event and talk about their experiences. This year, 100 students, faculty, and staff participated in the event and discussion. The event was timely given the executive order banning travel to many predominantly Muslim countries that had just been signed by the President of the United States.

## **Role Models and Representation: Black Women in Education (February 15, 2017)**

In collaboration with Multicultural Young Educators Network and the College of Education, the Women's Center partnered to help support this Black History Month panel discussion. This program consisted of a panel of Black women educators who led a discussion about the importance of positive role models and representation in our communities and media. Panelists included Dr. Kimberly Stansbury, NC State University, Roxann J. Sykes, Assistant Principal at Washington GT Magnet Elementary, Alexandra Zagbayou, Executive Director, Student U, and Alexandria Pitts, Middle Grades Teacher and NC State Alumna. Thirty-five individuals attended this event.

## **My Sister's Keeper (February 16, 2017)**

**A new program this year:** "My Sisters' Keeper," a partnership with Multicultural Student Affairs, was an intersectional discussion on Black Feminism and Womanism that allowed for fellowship and community building as woman of color on a predominately white campus. By engaging in conversation about Black Feminist Ideology, Womanism and how these theories informed how women of color and non-women of color supported one another at predominantly white institutions, student were able to find support and a community on campus. Twenty-seven individuals attending this program, including some high school students who were beginning to make decisions on where to attend college.

## **Women In Leadership: What I Learned Along the Way (February 22, 2017)**

In partnership with the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and the NC State Career Center, the Women's Center assisted with planning and implementing the first Women in Leadership panel and networking event. The purpose of this event was to promote career-building relationships between NC State students and local companies/leaders who support women in the workplace through both informal networking as well as small group facilitated dialogue. The event began with a panel discussion focused on the personal experiences of women representing non-profit, engineering and journalism. Proceeds from the event benefit the continuing study of gender through the Women and Gender Studies Program and the Women's Center at NC State. Eleven companies and 49 students registered to attend the event, with 26 students attending the day of the event. \$350 was raised from this event and will be used to fund future CAB activities.

## **Black Girl Linguistic Play: A Conversation (February 24, 2017)**

In partnership with Arts NC State and the African American Cultural Center, the Women's Center assisted in hosting "Lunch and Conversation with Camille A. Brown," writer and choreographer of Black Girl Linguistic Play. Brown infuses critical feminist ideology into her playwright as an exploration of Black girl/woman identity. This

interactive discussion engaged students in conversation about building community and using their art to engage in activism within their university and local community. Students were able to speak with Camille Brown about self-care, how she incorporated her authentic self into her art, and addressing issues of race, class, and ability within her artistic expression. Twenty-three students attended this event, which was held in the African American Cultural Center.

## **Sisterhood Dinner (February 27, 2017)**

Sponsored by the Council on the Status of Women, the Sisterhood Dinner celebrates the contributions and accomplishments of NC State women. It was originally called the Susan B. Anthony Dinner but was changed in 1999 to the Sisterhood Dinner to encompass all aspects of the achievements of women. This year, the Women's Center took on an increased role leading this effort. The annual Sisterhood Dinner filled the Ballroom of Talley Student Union on Monday, February 27, 2017 with several hundred attendees who celebrated the achievements of women. Fifty-one departments/units registered for the Sisterhood Dinner with six hundred people in attendance. The Sisterhood Dinner was able to raise \$4,500 in revenue for the Council on the Status of Women to use to fund grants on campus.

The event also honored this year's winners of the **Equity for Women Awards** from a group of exceptional nominees. There were 39 nominations of 22 outstanding faculty, staff and students. Three award recipients were honored at the dinner.

The Women's Center also hosts a silent auction during the reception before the dinner. We had 35 items submitted to be auctioned off, varying from framed photographs to a pillow and blanket set to theatre tickets. Two thousand dollars was raised for Women's Center programming.

**New This Year:** One addition we made to the Sisterhood Dinner was to have the Jazz Ensemble for entertainment during the reception. This was very well received.

## **Women's Herstory Month**

### **International Women's Day Forum Discussion (March 1, 2017)**

This kickoff event for Women's Herstory month was done in collaboration with She's the First and Queen In You, and hosted and organized by Zakiya Covington, Women's Center student leader and Global Gender Issues Action Team leader. Students were engaged in a presentation and discussion about the history of women of color entering spaces that were originally not for them, and making a difference. The purpose of this program was to help participants take their own experiences and use them to inspire women to continue to pursue any career and excelling to potentially become the first!

### **“She’s Beautiful when She’s Angry” documentary viewing and panel discussion (March 16, 2017)**

In collaboration with Women and Gender Studies, the Women’s Herstory Month planning team hosted a viewing of the documentary “She’s Beautiful when She’s Angry,” followed by a facilitated panel discussion with scholars Natalie Bullock Brown, Assistant Professor, St. Augustine’s University and Deborah Hooker, former Director of Women and Gender Studies at NC State University. “She’s Beautiful when She’s Angry” is an “account of the birth of the women’s liberation movement in the 1960’s through its contemporary manifestations in the new millennium, direct from the women who lived it.” [Amazon Review](#). Sixty-five students, faculty and staff participated in this event.

### **Radical Acceptance: Making Peace with Defining Womanhood (March 20, 2017)**

Inspired by the words of Simone de Beauvoir and Janet Mock, this panel discussion explored the many definitions of womanhood, what it means to us, what it means to you, and how we can accept each and everyone’s complex definitions of womanhood. The panel was facilitated by Sara LeClerc from the Counseling Center, and included the following panelists: Donna Battle, Chaplain, Meredith College, Alexandra McAurthur, National Director, Young Adult and Community Engagement at the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and Déjà Baptiste, Writer and Healer at The Deja Speaks. Fifty students participated in this event.

### **Keynote Speaker, Dorothy Roberts - “Killing the Black Body in Retrospect: Twenty Years of Reproductive Violence and Justice” (March 23, 2017)**

Published in 1997, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* documents a long history of regulation of Black women’s bodies in the United States, beginning with the legal status of enslaved women as property, and explains its crucial importance to both reproductive and racial politics in America. Twenty years later, these devaluing ideologies, laws, and policies have expanded in new guises that help to perpetuate race and gender injustice in the health care, law enforcement, welfare, and foster care systems. At the same time, the rise of an exciting reproductive justice movement has provided a new framework for envisioning a more humane and equitable society. Dorothy Roberts joined us on campus to discuss her original work, and reflections 20 years later. Her speaking engagement was preceded by a snack break where faculty and staff had an opportunity to interact and discuss Dorothy’s work with her. Post-event, the bookstore also facilitated a book signing with Dorothy. Eighty-five student, faculty, staff and community members joined us for this event.

### **Finding our Freedom to Heal Self-Care Workshop (March 30, 2017)**

As part of its Women’s Herstory Month programming, NC State Women’s Center presented Finding Our Freedom to Heal, a self-care workshop. The Counseling

Center's Dr. Alli DeFinis and Mia Self from University Theatre led this interactive workshop that focused on various forms of self-care. Specific activities were chosen based on information shared by participants in the pre-event registration. Twelve students and staff participated in this workshop.

## **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

### **Keynote Address (March 28, 2017)**

Our keynote address for Sexual Assault Awareness Month was given by Dr. Jackson Katz. Katz is an American educator, author, filmmaker and cultural theorist who is internationally renowned for his pioneering work in gender violence prevention education and critical media literacy. In 1993, he co-founded the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. The mixed-gender, multiracial MVP program is one of the most widely implemented and influential sexual and relationship abuse prevention programs in schools, colleges, sports culture and the military in North America and beyond. MVP introduced the "bystander" approach to the gender violence prevention field; Katz is one of the key architects of this now broadly popular approach. Dr. Katz specifically engaged men and allies. He discussed bystander intervention, rape culture and men's role in violence prevention. There were 60 participants at this event.

### **The Clothesline Project**

Available throughout the month of April, members of the University community were invited to the Women's Center to make t-shirts focused on awareness-raising about campus resources and sexual assault, and to create a space for survivors to express themselves. The Women's Center was able to partner with the Counseling Center and the Arts Village to help promote and support this event. In addition, t-shirts from past years were hung in Talley Student Union for the duration of the month to bring awareness of the project, as well as a means to promote other SAAM events. Twenty individuals made new shirts this year. Those shirts were then displayed as part of Take Back the Night.

### **My Masculinity Helps Movie Facilitation and Panel (April 13, 2017)**

This was a primary prevention event focused on awareness raising and supporting survivors specifically within the Black male community. This event consisted of a showing of My Masculinity Helps, followed by a panel discussion which included undergraduates, graduate students, and staff members. There were about 50 participants at this event.

### **Take Back the Night (April 19, 2017)**

Take Back the Night is an annual event on campus. It is composed of three main pieces, a rally where students and staff speak about the importance of sexual

assault prevention, followed by a march around campus and finally a survivor speak out. This is both a primary and tertiary prevention effort focused on awareness-raising about campus resources and sexual assault, as well as a way to create a space for survivors to connect and heal. This year's speak out portion was set up in a circle to include a storytelling model which is more inclusive of non-western cultures, specifically Native American cultures. Some of the partners that helped make Take Back the Night possible this year included University Housing, Athletics, Student Health, University Recreation, and the Division of Academic and Student Affairs. Roughly 200 students, faculty and staff participated in the event this year.

### **Denim Day (April 26, 2017)**

As a part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), Denim Day is a national event that brings attention to an international court case, which ruled against a survivor based on the fact that she was wearing tight jeans. This campaign is focused on awareness-building, and in an effort to activate the campus community, student organizations and campus departments were encouraged to participate in a Women's Center photoshoot, taking the pledge against sexual violence. The photoshoot took place on April 18th and the photos were displayed on the Stafford Commons mesh screen on April 26th.

On April 26th, the Women's Center also hosted a tabling event with a photo/video booth, free snacks, information, and the opportunity to take the pledge.

- 17 student and departmental groups participated in the April 18th photo shoot
- 256 faculty, staff, and students signed the pledge against sexual assault for Denim Day
- Videos and photos with pledges were shared via the Women's Center social media platforms and the mesh screen on Stafford Commons.

### **Gender and Equity Research Symposium (April 25, 2017)**

The Gender and Equity Research Symposium was a new initiative of the Women's Center this year. The Symposium intended to provide our community of scholars an opportunity to present their scholarly research. In its first year, only a poster presentation format was utilized. In order to assist students in preparing their Symposium submissions, two proposal writing hours were held. These sessions were meant to encourage students to submit their research and also help them think through their research problems thoroughly. A blind review occurred on all submitted research, and selected research was then also judged the day of the event. Participants were asked to submit posters which addressed gender, intersectional identity, and equity in research.

The Symposium included three poster presentation sessions on the third floor atrium at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., an Opening Session with Dr. Elizabeth Nelson as the keynote speaker and a Closing Luncheon featuring Dr. Karey Harwood, Coordinator

of Women and Gender Studies, who presented her research on Bioethics and Advanced Reproductive Technologies. The morning session had approximately 16 participants present and 55 additional attendees joined the group for the luncheon and keynote.

Winners of the poster presentation were:

- 1st place: *Helen Wu & Joanne Caye, NC State* - Understanding Students' Debt/Loan Experience
- 2nd Place: *Winn Decker & Dr. Tiffany J. Davis, NC State* - Exploring the Relationship between It's on Us Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign and Students Active Bystander Practices
- 3rd Place: *Heidi McCann* - Viewing Community College Student Completion Through Multiple Lenses

## **C. Alignment with NC State's Strategic Plan Goals**

### **1. Enhance the success of our students through educational innovation**

The Women's Center actively works to provide high impact practices which enhance the success of students at NC State. We do this through our participation in Alternative Service Break trips as well as involvement in the Women of Welch Living and Learning Program.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Women's Center funded or supported staff for three Alternative Service Break trips. In partnership with Multicultural Student Affairs, the Women's Center helped to sponsor a Fall Break trip to Atlanta which focused on Civil Rights and Reproductive Justice and was advised by Associate Director Jennifer Castillo from the Women's Center and Graduate Assistant Diamond Turner. Jennifer Castillo also advised a December/January trip to the Dominican Republic. In addition, the Women's Center financially sponsored and supported a Spring Break trip to Guatemala which focused on gender issues. This trip was advised by Ashley Pinet from Student Health, due to the Women's Center being short-staffed.

In addition, Women's Center Director Lisa LaBarbera-Mascote serves on the Advisory Board for the Women of Welch Living and Learning Community. As noted earlier, the Women's Center intends to enhance their involvement in the coming year. At the time of this report, the Village has 30 residents signed up for next year which includes 19 upperclass students and 11 new first year students. The Advisory board will be meeting over the summer to reevaluate the Village mission, vision and guiding theory to help better inform the programming and activities provided to the residents.



## **2. Enhance scholarship and research by investing in faculty and infrastructure**

The NC State Women's Center plays an active role in the University's Council on the Status of Women. During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Women's Center led the planning team for both the Sisterhood Dinner as well as the Equity for Women nomination and Award process. In addition, staff led the subcommittee charged with formalizing a recommendation for 12 weeks paid parental leave. During the last Council on the Status of Women meeting, the parental leave subcommittee was able to present their report to Dr. Linda Smith and Associate Vice Chancellor Marie Williams. Unfortunately, Provost Arden was unable to join us for that meeting. The parental leave subcommittee will continue to meet and work to move this important initiative forward.

## **3. Enhance interdisciplinary scholarship to address the grand challenges of society**

This year, the Women's Center organized its first Gender and Equity Research Symposium, organized by Graduate Assistant Angela Gay. This event was publicized across all disciplines at NC State University. Opportunities to submit research and attend was also shared with Meredith College, Shaw University, Saint Augustine's University and William Peace University. As noted in the program description above, this event not only offered students the opportunity to show off their research, but also included an opening session which addressed the importance of engaging in intersectional research and a closing luncheon where participants were able to hear from faculty who are actively engaged in research. The first Gender and Equity Research Symposium was a wonderful event and will be a signature event for the Women's Center in the future.

## **5. Enhance local and global engagement through focused strategic partnerships**

The Read to Lead program allows NC State students to "Think and Do," connecting critical thinking and diversity-related competencies in an asset-based mentoring model between university staff/students and youth from the Raleigh community. Additional details regarding this program can be found in program descriptions earlier in this report. As a means to show its economic impact, leaders of the Read to Lead program have calculated economic impact through volunteerism:

- 2016-2017 Year = 2259 hours x \$23.56 = \$53,151.36 invested in our community
- 2015-2016 Year = 1436.1 hours X \$23.56 = \$33,834.52 invested in our community