

Rocket Upstanders: A Community Based Prevention education Program

The University of Toledo Title IX Office

Brittany Kupresanin, 2025 Title IX Summit



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The Title IX Team

- Michelle McDevitt (she, her, hers), M.O.L, Interim Director – Title IX and Compliance & Title IX Coordinator
- Brittany Kupresanin (she, her, hers), MA, LPCC, Manager, Title IX Compliance, Prevention, and Assessment
- Zoe Zulakis (she, her, hers), JD, MSW – Title IX & Sexual Misconduct Investigator

The Title IX Team– Student Roles



Rachel Kellett (she, her, hers),
Graduate Assistant– Master
of Social Work Student



Title IX Student Ambassadors

UToledo Quick Stats

- Over 14,400 students
 - Majority commute to campus
 - 5 On campus residence halls
- Over 400 student organizations
 - Over 30 sororities and fraternities
- 17 NCAA Division 1 athletic teams
- Over 5,000 employees across 6 campus locations



Title IX Trainings and Programming

- Title IX Policy Trainings
 - Employees
 - Student Workers
- New student orientation
- Sexual Misconduct Prevention Education
 - Awareness campaigns
 - 2018-2024- Bringing in the Bystander

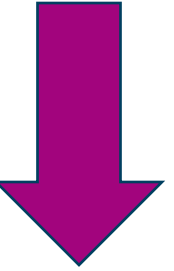
Bringing in the Bystander

- Requested
 - Classrooms
 - Department
 - Student organizations



- Hosted by Title IX Office

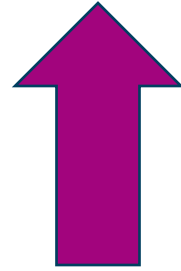
- Open to all students and campus community



- FSL new members required to attend a session

Bringing in the Bystander

- Requested
 - Classrooms
 - Department
 - Student organizations



- FSL New Member Symposium

- Hosted by Title IX Office
 - Open to all students and campus community



Opportunity for a second dose of prevention programming

Why new prevention programming?

- Strengths

- Coverage for Title IX policy and reporting
- Intervention strategies
- Being invited into spaces to present
- Relationships with partner offices
- Student Ambassador program

- Areas for Growth

- Prevention
- Increase engagement with students outside of the classroom
- Relatability of content
- Engage in impactful conversation
 - Less lecture style
- Involve campus and community resources
- A recognizable “brand”



Individuals who intervene to **positively impact** a harmful or potentially harmful situation.

- Build community purpose rather than focusing on individual defense
- Recognizing the impact of media on relationship expectations and social norms
- Practice conversations that can change community norms



Program Format

- Series of 3 programs, **Rocket Upstanders:**
 - Consent is the Tea
 - Media Myths and Rape Culture
 - Stalking Is Not Romantic
- Small round tables for breakout discussion
- Accompanying craft
- Instagram poll competition after program

Who's Involved

- Title IX staff
- Small group discussion facilitators
 - Title IX Student Ambassadors
 - Campus and community partners
- Office of Student Engagement
 - Fraternity and Sorority Life

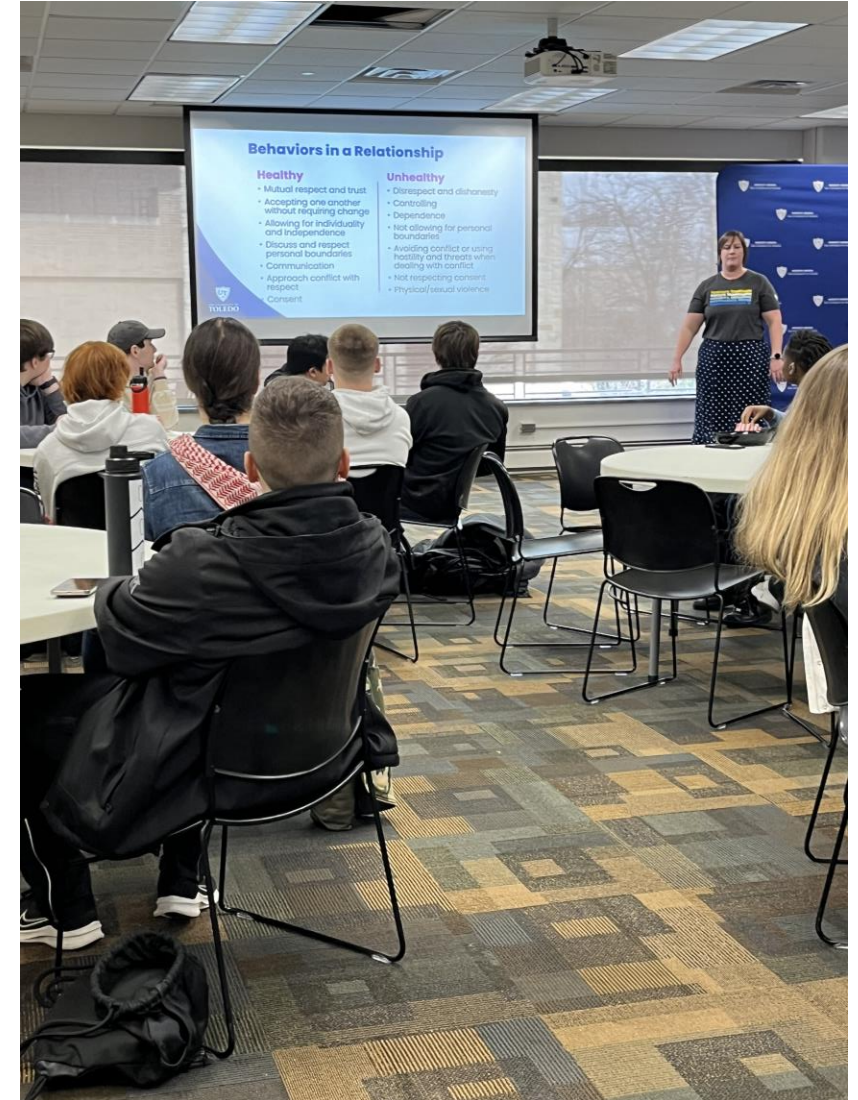


Program Outline

- Introduction
- Present
 - Breakout question
- Repeat (~2x)
- Call to action
- Wrap-up
 - How to report
 - Resource Guides
 - Upcoming events



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Title IX: Rocket Upstanders

Stand up
against sexual
harassment



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Stalking Is Not Romantic

Title IX Office

Fall 2024



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Today's Prize



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Content Warning

- This training addresses sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking.
- The sensitive content of this topic may be difficult to process.
- Feel free to step away to do what you need to take care of yourself.
- Please connect with campus and community resources for support. The resource guide can be found on the Title IX webpage and will be reviewed in this training.





Rocket Upstanders

Rockets against sexual harassment

Individuals who intervene to **positively impact** a harmful or potentially harmful situation.

Stalking: Life Isn't Like the Movies



What is Stalking?

- Legal definition varies by location
- Title IX and Clery Act define stalking as:
 - (a) engaging in a course of conduct,
 - two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the Respondent directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
 - (b) on the basis of sex,
 - (c) directed at a specific person, that would cause a reasonable person to
 - (i) fear for the person's safety, or
 - (ii) fear for safety of others; or
 - (iii) suffer substantial emotional distress.



What is Stalking?

- Under the Student Code of Conduct
 - engaging in a course of conduct **directed at a specific person** that involves **repeated** or continuing harassment made **against the expressed wishes of another individual**, which causes that individual to **feel emotional distress** including fear, harassment, intimidation, or apprehension.

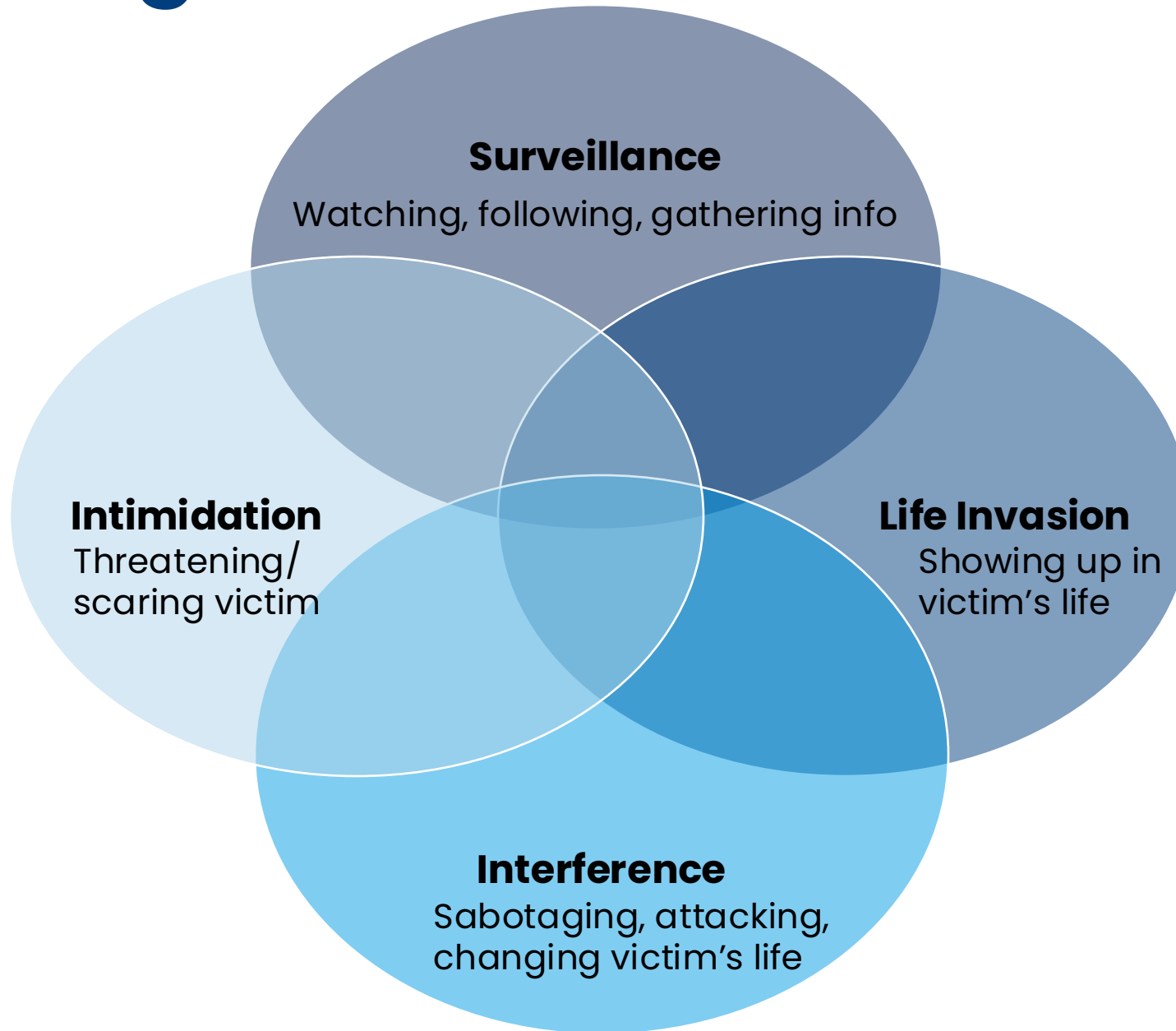


**What are some
behaviors you can
identify as stalking?**



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Stalking Behaviors



Stalking can happen to anyone, but...

- Young adults ages 18–24 experience the highest rates of stalking among adults
- Victims of stalking among undergraduate students:
 - 1 in 10 women
 - 1 in 33 men
 - 1 in 7 transgender & nonbinary/genderqueer
- Student with disabilities, Native American/Alaskan Native students, biracial/multiracial students, and younger students are at higher risk



43% of college stalking victims who meet the legal criteria of 'stalking' do not identify their experience as 'stalking'.

Why is stalking so under identified?



CO-OCCURRING² VICTIMIZATIONS

Undergraduate students stalked by an intimate partner also experienced:



40% Coercive Control

32% Sexual Assault

11% Physical Assault

STUDENT STALKING RELATIONSHIPS¹

33% Former Intimate Partner

31% Acquaintance

25% Friend

18% Classmate

14% Current Intimate Partner



Behaviors in a Relationship

Healthy

- Mutual respect and trust
- Accepting one another without requiring change
- Allowing for individuality and independence
- Discuss and respect personal boundaries
- Communication
- Approach conflict with respect
- Consent

Unhealthy

- Disrespect and dishonesty
- Controlling
- Dependence
- Not allowing for personal boundaries
- Avoiding conflict or using hostility and threats when dealing with conflict
- Not respecting consent
- Physical/sexual violence

Stalking for Love



Stalking in music

Stalking

#	Title	Artist	Album
1	Animals	Maroon 5	V
2	I Will Follow Him	Peggy March	I Will Follow Him
3	Every Breath You Take - Remastered 2...	The Police	Synchronicity (Remastered)
4	Don't You Want Me	The Human League	Dare!
5	Escape	Enrique Iglesias	Escape
6	Run For Your Life - Remastered 2009	The Beatles	Rubber Soul (Remastered)
7	Two Steps Behind - Acoustic	Def Leppard	Adrenalize (Deluxe Edition)
8	Private Eyes	Daryl Hall & John Oates	Private Eyes (Expanded Edition)
9	Hungry Like the Wolf - 2009 Remaster	Duran Duran	Rio (Collector's Edition)
10	One Way Or Another	Blondie	Parallel Lines
11	Find Your Love	Drake	Thank Me Later
12	Ready or Not	Fitz and The Tantrums	All the Feels
13	Hunt You Down	Kesha	Rainbow
14	Invisible	Clay Aiken	Measure Of A Man
15	Come To My Window	Melissa Etheridge	Yes I Am
16	Ready or Not Here I Come (Can't Hide f...	The Delfonics	The Sound Of Sexy
17	Never Let You Go - 2008 Remaster	Third Eye Blind	Blue
18	I'm Gonna Knock On Your Door - Mono	The Isley Brothers	Shout!
19	I Will Follow - Remastered 2008	U2	Boy (Deluxe Edition)
20	The More You Ignore Me, the Closer I G...	Morrissey	Vauxhall and I (20th Anniversary Edition)

Why does the media and pop culture portrayal of stalking matter?

What stalking behaviors seen
in movies would be scary if
experienced in real life?



Stalking

Fantasy

- Stalker is attractive, charming stranger
- Stalker has good, pure, and romantic intentions
- Stalker's actions are flattering, harmless and at worst awkward or misguided
- Stalker's target feels grateful, amused, flattered

Reality

- Stalker usually known to victim
- Stalker's intentions often to scare, focused on power and control
- Stalker's actions are invasive, disturbing, and can escalate quickly to violent
- Stalking victims often feel extreme fear and distress and may significantly change their daily lives



Social Media Stalking- Tech Confessions



Mashable

What are some behaviors you can identify as stalking?

Are some of these behaviors normalized and minimized in society?



Student victims of stalking tell:

- 92% Friends or family
- 29% Campus resource

So, what can you do?

- Support those impacted
 - Believe them
 - “It’s not their fault”
 - Connect them with resources
 - Check in with victim by method of their choice
 - Don’t give the stalker information
- Speak out against the root causes
- Be an Upstander



Reporting Options

- Emergency: Call 911 on or off campus
- Online: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/>
- Email : TitleIX@utoledo.edu
- Phone: 419.530.4191
- Office:
 - Snyder Memorial 1120 (main campus)
 - Health Science campus upon request
- Michelle McDevitt, *Director, Title IX & Compliance & Title IX Coordinator*
 - Michelle.McDevitt2@utoledo.edu
 - Phone: 419.530.3152



TITLE IX RESOURCE GUIDE

The University of Toledo Guide to Title IX

The University of Toledo is committed to preventing sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including actual or attempted sexual assault; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking) and retaliation.

University employees are mandated reporters for Title IX. If an incident is reported to a mandated reporter, they are required to share the information with the Title IX Office. This enables the Title IX Office to follow up with the parties involved to ensure all rights are protected by Title IX.

All confidential resources listed below are available to faculty, staff and students unless otherwise noted. They will not share your information with anyone, including the Title IX Office, without your consent.

CONFIDENTIAL resources for those affected by sex discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation:

24-HOUR HELP LINE OPTIONS AND ADVOCACY

YWCA Rape Crisis Center Services

1.866.557.7273 or 419.241.7273

- Access to local, trained on-call advocates
- Advocacy and support in hospital emergency rooms
- Free and confidential services to assist individuals who have experienced sexual violence, dating/domestic violence, or stalking
- Referrals to counseling, medical and legal services, shelters, and more

Bethany House

1.800.799.SAFE(7233) for 24/7 assistance

- Provides safe shelter and advocacy for domestic violence survivors and their children

MEDICAL RESOURCE OPTIONS

University of Toledo Medical Center

3000 Arlington Ave, Toledo, OH 43614
419.383.3888

24-hour sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE)

- Physical injury and preventive medical treatments, if needed
- Forensic exams with patient's consent

Mercy Health St. Vincent's Medical Center

2213 Cherry St., Toledo, OH 43608

419.251.3268

24-hour sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE)

- Physical injury and preventive medical treatments, if needed
- Forensic exams with patient's consent

ProMedica Toledo Hospital, Emergency Department

2142 N. Cove Blvd., Toledo, OH 43606

419.291.4600

24-hour sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE)

- Physical injury and preventive medical treatments, if needed
- Forensic exams with patient's consent

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

University Counseling Center (students only)

University Health Center, Room 1030

419.530.2426

(To initiate counseling services, visit the website to make an appointment at utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/new or call 419.530.2426 to schedule).

- Trauma specialists provide consultation and counseling services
- Services for survivors of sexual violence, dating/domestic violence, and stalking
- Provides on- and off-campus mental health referrals
- Offers options for group support and psychoeducation

Employee Assistance Program (employees only)

Impact Employee Assistance (24/7) 1.800.227.6007

myimpactsolution.com company code: uteap

- Provides professional, confidential support

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911



Title IX Office

NON-CONFIDENTIAL campus resources addressing issues related to sex discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation:

These resources will share information with the Title IX Office. Your information will be handled with respect for your privacy. The Title IX Office will follow up with you after any sex discrimination, sexual harassment or retaliation reports have been filed.

The University of Toledo Police Department

Main Campus, Public Safety Center

- Emergency: 911
- Non-emergency: 419.530.2800

Center for Advocacy and Student Experience (CASE) and Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

Main Campus, Lancelot Thompson

Student Union, Room 2518

SCCS: 419.530.1258,

CASE: 419.530.4357 (HELP), case@utoledo.edu

Military Service Center

Main Campus, Rocket Hall, Room 1350

419.530.1392 (VETS), mssc@utoledo.edu

Office of Residence Life

Main Campus, Ottawa House West, Room 1014

419.530.2941, residence@utoledo.edu

Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources

Main Campus, Rocket Hall, Room 1820

419.530.4981, studentdisability@utoledo.edu

Human Resources and HR Compliance

Main Campus, Center for Administrative Support

2935 E. Rocket Drive

419.530.4747, hrcompliance@utoledo.edu

Title IX Office

Main Campus, Snyder Memorial Building

Room 1120, 419.530.4191

titleix@utoledo.edu

The Title IX Office can provide or guide those affected by sex discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation with supportive measures, including:

- Housing information
- Student conduct process information
- Academic supportive measures
- Workplace supportive measures
- Medical resources
- Information for filing a police report
- Guidance in filing a Title IX complaint

- Human resources and faculty labor relations process information
- Pregnancy and parenting resources

Respondent Resources

Contact the Title IX Office at 419.530.4191 or review the Title IX webpage at utoledo.edu/title-ix for resources and guidelines.

Training and Education Resources

- Sexual Misconduct Prevention Education Programming
- Title IX Training
- Specialized Trainings

The University of Toledo does not discriminate in its employment practices or in its educational programs or activities on the basis of sex/gender. The University of Toledo also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process internally or externally. Reports of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, discrimination questions regarding Title IX and concerns about noncompliance should be directed to the Title IX coordinator.

Inquiries may be made externally to:

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20202-1100

Customer Service Hotline: 800.421.3481

Facsimile: 202.453.6012

TDD#: 877.521.2172

Email: ocr@ed.gov

Web: ed.gov/ocr

Reports of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, discrimination questions regarding Title IX and concerns about noncompliance should be directed to:

Michelle McDevitt

Interim Director, Title IX and Compliance, and

Title IX Coordinator

The University of Toledo

Mail Stop 137

Snyder Memorial Building, Room 1120

2801 W. Bancroft St.

Toledo, OH 43606-3390

419.530.4191

Email: titleix@utoledo.edu

Web: utoledo.edu/title-ix

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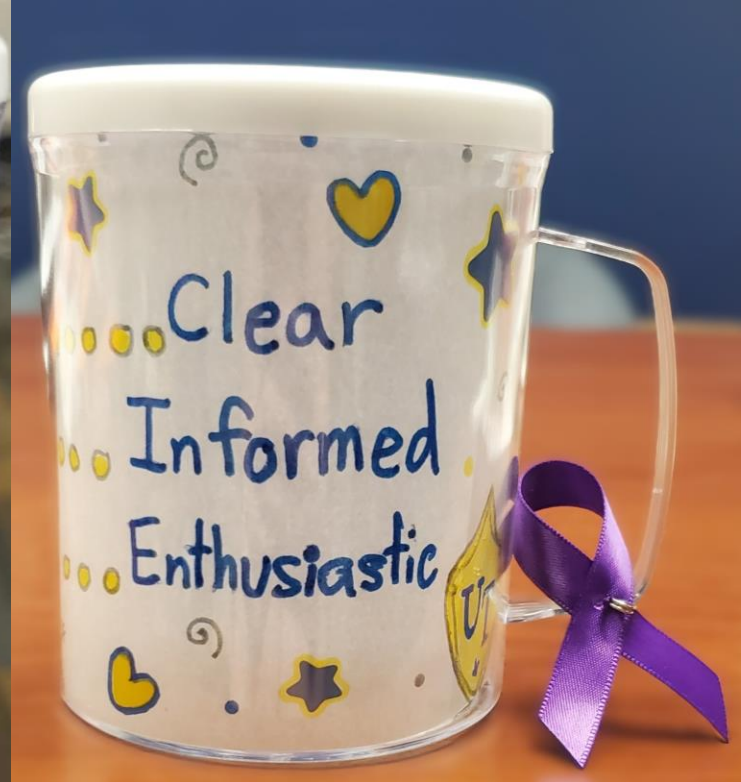
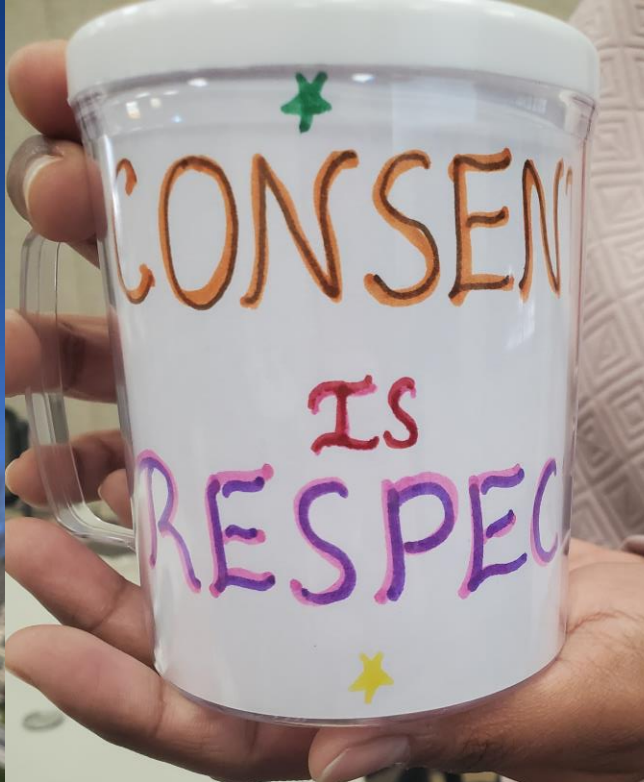
Rocket Upstanders

Rockets against sexual harassment

Individuals who intervene to **positively impact** a harmful or potentially harmful situation.

- **Stalking Is Not Romantic**
 - January 28th- 2-3pm, CL 1005
 - February 24th- 1-2pm, CL 1005
- **Media Myths and Rape Culture**
 - March 19th and 20th- 1-2pm, CL 1005
- **Consent is the Tea**
 - April 14th- 2-3pm, CL 1005
 - April 15th- 1-2pm, CL 1005





What's next?

- Refresh topics
- Identify potential challenges
- Attendance



Resources needed

- Campus and community support
 - Facilitators
 - Help identify campus needs and trends
- Program space
- Target population to engage
- Advertising
 - Harness partnerships
- Funds
 - Craft supplies and prizes
- Creativity



CONTACT US



@UToledoTitleIX



@UToledoTitleIX



@UToledo Title IX



Now Hiring!

Associate Director
Title IX & Compliance
and Senior Deputy
Title IX Coordinator

University of Toledo

Title IX Office

1120 Snyder Memorial

419.530.4191

TitleIX@utoledo.edu

www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/

References

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