

## Sexual Harassment: Education, Awareness and Resources

Suffolk County Community College is dedicated to providing an environment conducive to intellectual and personal growth. For the College, this means maintaining a firm institutional commitment to the highest standards of professional and interpersonal behavior and respect among members of the community. Thus, there is zero tolerance for any form of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination prohibited by both State and Federal law. No member of the College community should tolerate sexual harassment from a campus visitor, faculty member, colleague, supervisor, student or any other member of the College community.

### Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined in the *Student Handbook* as 1) sexual submission or 2) unwelcome sexual conduct, or conduct directed at a person because of his or her sex that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment for working or learning. Sexual harassment can include a wide range of behaviors, from the actual coercing of sexual relations, or the attempt thereof, to the unwelcome emphasizing of sexual identity. Students are encouraged to refer to the full definition of sexual harassment as is outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Clearly, sexual assault is a serious form of sexual harassment. Sexual assault is one of the most frequently committed crimes and the most unreported. Acquaintance rape, a form of sexual assault that occurs between people who know each other, is in fact more common on college and university campuses than stranger rape. Acquaintance rape is just as serious as any other form of sexual abuse.

### Sexual Offenses

No one wants to think about sexual offenses. It can make you feel angry, sad, frightened, embarrassed or uncomfortable; but one cannot ignore the subject. One can not assume with certainty that sexual assaults, rape or harassment will not take place. One can not assume that victims of sexual assault are limited to a

. If a person engages in nonconsensual sexual intercourse through physical force, coercion, incapacitation or threat-actual or implied- the act is considered rape in New York State. Sexual intercourse is defined as any penetration. A person who is mentally incapacitated, a minor, asleep, physically helpless or impaired due to drug or alcohol consumption or unconscious is considered unable to consent. If sexual intercourse takes place without consent for any reason, it is considered rape, which is a felony in New York State.

. If a man or woman is forced to engage in any form of sexual contact other than vaginal intercourse, under the circumstances mentioned above, it is considered sexual abuse. If penetration is involved (other than vaginal), it is considered sodomy, also a felony in New York State.

### Prevention

Your safety and well-being depend mostly on you:

**Be Alert.** Just being aware of the possibility of becoming a victim is the first step to prevent becoming a victim. Trust your instincts and react to any signs that make you uneasy.

**Reduce your risk.** If you have any doubt as to what you should or should not be doing, just imagine yourself as a potential victim and ask yourself, how can I avoid the dangerous situation

**Remember.** You can err on either of two extremes: b 90.024 4B>1715.33 185n.024 404.1 394.15 567.31 1TuXITBT1 0 0 1k21

## Prevention Tips

- Avoid working, studying or being alone in buildings or in isolated areas of the campus.
- Do not shower in an empty or unlocked gym shower.
- Use paths that are well-populated when you walk, bike or jog.
- Do not wear earphones while jogging or biking.
- Have your keys ready in your hand when going to your car. Do not place tags with your home address on your key ring.
- Always lock your car and close your car windows when you park and leave your car.
- Be cautious about dating someone you do not know well. Obtain information from a mutual acquaintance or meet together with other friends.
- Never agree to meet alone with a person who you met online.
- Avoid alcohol or drugs. Alcohol and drugs interfere with clear thinking and effective communication.
- Do not accept a drink or substance from someone who you do not know at a party, club or bar. In addition, do not leave a drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) unattended.
- Do not leave a club, bar or party with a person who you just met at the event.
-

## College and Community Resources

Listed below are the offices on each campus and in the local community which can offer information, assistance and support to victims of a crime:

### Ammerman Campus

Counseling Center

Health Services