Gender-Based Violence Prevention Peer Education Program

2018 WOX Grant Final Report

Grant Cycle: 2016-2018

Submitted: 2016

Grant Applicant: Paisley Scarberry, Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator

Report Submitter: Talia Tuesta, Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator

Center for Diversity and Inclusion
Summary

Research indicates that one-in-four women will experience gender-based violence in college. Due to the significant impact gender-based violence has on student survivors, it is recommended that institutions of higher education implement a comprehensive training program focused on bystander intervention in order to empower students, faculty, and staff to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (CCC, 2015). In 2016, the Women of Excellence Grant allowed the Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator to implement a Peer Education Program at Xavier University that lead gender-based violence prevention efforts and was a part of a comprehensive, coordinated approach to support a healthy, safe, and inclusive campus environment. The Peer Education Program, BRAVE (Believe; Reclaim; Advocate; Vocalize; Empower), is housed in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and is supervised by the Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator, a staff position whose role is to provide confidential support and advocacy services to Xavier students who have experienced gender-based violence, as well as coordinating prevention efforts.

Prior to implementing BRAVE, Xavier University was in need of a strategic, best practice, gender-based violence prevention program. This was a need that the Student Wellness Advocacy Group (SWAG) identified. Through their peer education and student wellness outreach, SWAG revealed the student desire to engage in gender-based violence prevention and recognized the need for specific expertise in the issue in order to do so. In 2016, Xavier University had the opportunity to utilize the expertise of the Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator to implement a peer education program focused specifically on gender-based violence prevention. BRAVE supported the efforts SWAG, the Title IX office, and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion made to increase Xavier University’s community literacy around gender-based violence.

Implementing a Peer Education Program focused specifically on gender-based violence supports XU’s efforts to lower barriers to reporting, increase reports, and decrease incidents of gender-based violence through peer-led discussion and bystander engagement. Because peers are less likely to be seen as authority figures, peer educators build stronger rapport with their audience and create a unique, safer space for dialogue around uncomfortable topics while increasing access to campus and community resources. Mirroring this model and the needs of XU’s campus, the Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator developed a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Peer Education Program that allows trained and committed students to facilitate prevention workshops, support awareness efforts, and promote support services. This program provides the foundation for gender-based violence prevention efforts on Xavier’s campus and complements other forms of prevention at Xavier University, including SWAG programming, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In 2016, the Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator hired 8 peer educators. In 2017, the new Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator hired 6 peer educators. Going forward there will be 10 peer educators each academic year. Peer educators were recruited, trained, and empowered to facilitate gender-based violence prevention workshops. Students selected as Peer Educators committed to the program for one year and received an average of 34 hours of training (40 hours in 2016 and 28 hours in 2017). This training mirrored the training topics outlined by the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. In 2016, BRAVE peer educators also participated in an eight hour “train the trainer” session facilitated by Mentors in Violence Preventions. Mentors in Violence Prevention Training certified Peer Educators to
facilitate violence prevention workshops to Xavier University students, faculty, and staff. BRAVE peer educators continued to use this certification in the 2017-2018 academic year.

These interactive, best practice prevention workshops engage peers in discussion around sexual violence, consent, binary gender roles, healthy relationships and safe ways to intervene when witnessing violent and/or oppressive behavior by a peer. Incorporating bystander engagement techniques with critical dialogue creates an intentional space that empowers participants to view themselves as leaders who have a responsibility to create a healthy and safe environment for all. Mirroring Xavier University’s Jesuit heritage, this program developed student leaders that value social justice, inclusion, and solidarity. This Peer Education Program is designed with the intention to empower Xavier University students to create a campus culture that is committed to ensuring the dignity and worth of all members of the campus community and cultivating a culture of respect and responsibility.

In May of 2017, Paisley Scarberry left her position as the Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator and in August of 2017, Talia Tuesta entered the role as the new Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator. Due to staff changes, BRAVE peer educators did not receive training in the fall of 2017. Rather, the new Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator recruited and trained 6 BRAVE peer educators in the spring of 2018.

**Impact**

BRAVE Peer Educators facilitate gender-based violence prevention workshops. BRAVE **empowers** students to create a culture committed to ensuring the **dignity and worth of all members** of our campus community. Since 2016, Residence Life requires all Resident Advisors to host a BRAVE program. This allows peer educators to access a vast majority of students at Xavier. BRAVE peer educators have also hosted programs that are open to the public in which students, staff, and faculty have joined.

Below are quotes regarding the impact of participating in a BRAVE workshop and/or being a part of BRAVE as a peer educator:

- “BRAVE did such a great job of leading the group. They were clear leaders of the group and conveyed the seriousness of the topic, while still maintaining a light and friendly environment. Our group of 15 started out quiet, but quickly became extremely engaged after small promptings by Maryn and Nikki (BRAVE peer educators). The bystander piece at the end was also carried out well and received well.” – Danica Lombardi, Resident Assistant

- “I joined BRAVE to give a voice to survivors of sexual assault and gender-based violence who have been silenced by our society. Too often survivors are unable to share their stories because they are blamed and not believed by their friends, family, university, law enforcement, and media.” – Shelby Deye, Peer Educator
Below are images from a few BRAVE workshops:

BRAVE’s first workshop of 2018 with residents in Husman Hall

Workshop with residents of Fenwick Hall
Workshop with an (all male) group of participants in Husman Hall!

Workshop for members of Xavier’s ROTC program
## Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET ITEM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>BUDGETED</th>
<th>SPENT</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer Educator Stipend</td>
<td><strong>$16,000</strong>&lt;br&gt;Year I: $8,000&lt;br&gt;Year II: $8,000</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>$5,279.07</td>
<td>$10,720.93</td>
<td>Paid stipend for 16 peer educators (8 @ $1,000 per year)¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workbooks</td>
<td><strong>$200</strong>&lt;br&gt;Year I: $100&lt;br&gt;Year II: $100</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Paid for reflection workbooks for BRAVE peer educators to track their learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Binders</td>
<td><strong>$100</strong>&lt;br&gt;Year I: $50&lt;br&gt;Year II: $50</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Paid for Training materials for BRAVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals (5 lunches)</td>
<td><strong>$1,000</strong>&lt;br&gt;Year I: $500&lt;br&gt;Year II: $500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$642.85</td>
<td>$357.15</td>
<td>Paid for meals for BRAVE during training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Read</td>
<td><strong>$200</strong>&lt;br&gt;Year I: $100&lt;br&gt;Year II: $100</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Paid for summer reading books for BRAVE peer educators</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-shirts</td>
<td><strong>$500</strong>&lt;br&gt;Year I: $250&lt;br&gt;Year II: $250</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$384.50</td>
<td>$115.50</td>
<td>Paid for t-shirts for BRAVE peer educators</td>
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<td>Outreach Materials</td>
<td><strong>$300</strong>&lt;br&gt;Year I: $150&lt;br&gt;Year II: $150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Paid for outreach materials for BRAVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel to OAESV Advocacy Day</td>
<td><strong>$400</strong></td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$200</td>
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</table>

¹ Some budget expenses for BRAVE are not reflected on the budget since new Advocacy and Prevention Coordinator did not charge the WOX account. This is due to Talia Tuesta being a new staff member and was unaware that she needed to charge certain expenses to a different account number.
Due to staff changes, BRAVE was not active in the fall of 2017. This accounts for why the peer educator stipend fund was not fully used.

Training binders were not purchased in year 2 due to staff changes and returning BRAVE peer educators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Service Lunches</th>
<th>Year I: $700</th>
<th>Year II: $700</th>
<th>$1,200</th>
<th>$587.68</th>
<th>$612.32</th>
<th>Paid for lunches during BRAVE in-services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$19,900</td>
<td>$7,844.10</td>
<td>$12,055.9</td>
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</table>

\[1\] Due to staff changes, BRAVE was not active in the fall of 2017. This accounts for why the peer educator stipend fund was not fully used.

\[2\] Training binders were not purchased in year 2 due to staff changes and returning BRAVE peer educators.