



**Report to the Board of Trustees
Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Title IX
April 2023**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) at Santa Monica Community College District (SMC/College.)

Sexual violence occurs every day and in every month.

A future without sexual violence, is only achieved through commitment, change, equity, and respect.

At SMC we use April to spotlight sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual violence issues and simultaneously, how the College addresses them.

SMC has opened up. There are more in-person interactions in our classrooms, departments and offices, more on ground activities. We want to ensure that our college community especially those who are more vulnerable such as women, BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color), LGBTQ+ individuals and people with disabilities learn and work in a safe and welcoming environment.

Sexual and intimate partner violence has been a constant through time. Studies show someone in the United States is sexually assaulted every 68 seconds. Nationwide 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime. Around the world, rape and sexual abuse are everyday violent occurrences—and affect more than a billion individuals over their lifetime.

Individuals between the ages of 18 to 24, whether attending college or not, are at significant risk of sexual assault. 13% of all students (graduate and undergraduate) experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Among undergraduates, 26.4% of females and 6.8% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation.

We want everyone in the SMC community to know they are not alone.

Our Steps:

1. Provide support; always available and ongoing.
2. Provide educational resources and prevention activities to educate about sexual harassment and sexual violence.
3. Build relationships and allies across the college community and outside agencies.
4. Offer comprehensive activities especially throughout April to reinforce Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resolution

Santa Monica College Board of Trustees (Board of Trustees) have led in creating a College wide focus on sexual violence issues. Board of Trustee leadership has made SMC a national College leader.

The Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resolution is presented to the Board of Trustees on April 4, 2023, for Trustee support.

This Resolution recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Wednesday, April 26, 2023, as Denim Day.

This year the Resolution especially notes:

- The stigma and trauma experienced of being a sexual assault survivor.
- The physical and mental health issues experienced by survivors and rising awareness of suicidal ideation.
- The costs, especially the hidden costs related to sexual violence.

SAAM Event Highlights

SMC workshops during Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Beyond Sex Toolbox Spring Series

- The Sexual Assault Awareness Month kickoff is on March 30, 2023, with a workshop on Consent and Intimate Partner Violence. The workshop will be presented by Marisa Faynsod, UCLA Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center. Marisa will also present a workshop on Supporting Survivors of Trauma on April 20, 2023.

Faculty are hosting a series of in person workshops for students and employees. These include:

- Training Circuit for Everyone – Fitness Assists Your Wellbeing on April 5, 2023, presented by Kelly Ledwith from the Kinesiology/PE department.
- Empowerment through Self Defense on April 18, 2023, presented by Garen Baghdasarian, from the Kinesiology/PE department.
- Restorative Yoga on April 21, 2023, presented by Karen Huner, from the Kinesiology/PE department.
- Art + Empowerment in honor of Denim Day on April 26, 2022, presented by Art Therapist and SMC Alumni Saba Harouni and Art Department.

Denim Day 2023

Denim Day is Wednesday, April 26, 2023. To respond to violence effectively, we first listen, believe, hold, care, nurture, protect, and love survivors through their healing journey. We know that this work is necessary, and we are committed to doing it together. We do this by wearing denim on this day.

The Student Equity Center will be conducting a social media campaign. And the doors will open this semester.

Other SAAM Online Activities in April

1. Title IX Open House invitation. This is a virtual invitation to visit the SMC Sexual Violence Response and Prevention website. We want the whole SMC community to learn more about how the Title IX office supports victims of sexual violence, discrimination, harassment, and more
2. Meditation, yoga, and mindfulness to support healing for survivors of sexual violence and abuse
3. Self Defense classes
4. 30-day Instagram Challenge
5. Consent Quiz
6. Denim Day Coloring Page
7. Podcasts, Blogs and YouTube Videos

SMC has clear and ongoing commitment in addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence. Many SMC students, faculty and staff volunteer in their support and activism. This includes:

- **Title IX Resources Advisory Group**
Title IX Resources Advisory Group includes students, faculty, staff, administrators, outside agencies and other community college members who meet to discuss current issues, plan educational events and preventative measures in addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence.
- **Student Equity Center/Gender Equity Center**
The Gender Equity Center Advisory Group includes students, faculty, staff and administrators. The doors will open this Spring. Students will have access to resources and support and be in a safe and welcoming environment. Addressing sexual harassment, and sexual violence is one of its main focuses.
- **Title IX Deputies**
Across the four corners of the College, Title IX Deputies provide guidance and information to students.
- **Title IX Advisors**
Have been selected and training to support Parties during an investigation.
- **Break the Silence Club**
Noemi Alvarado, a 2022 Title IX student leader is president of the Break the Silence club, a student club focusing on a safe place where voices can be heard, and where learning can take place. Faculty advisor is M. Roxana Cruz, a librarian at Santa Monica College and Professor Tupelo Hassman, an associate English professor.

Education and Prevention

Education and prevention activities continue throughout the year. These include:

- **Beyond Sex Toolbox Series**
Is in its 8th season. This comprehensive program addresses critical areas and is offered to students in the Spring semester. This spring, workshops included Bystander Intervention, Consent and Intimate Partner Violence, Supporting Survivors of Trauma and Unconscious Bias.
- **Title IX Student Leadership Program**
2023 will be the 5th time this program will be offered to students in the Fall semester. The Graduates of the program organize events, volunteer their services, and reach out to their communities in educating and addressing sexual violence.
- **In person training** for classes upon request
- **SMC offers many classes across disciplines that complements and reinforces the purpose of SAAM. These include:**
 - Communication Studies 36, Gender and Communication
 - Counseling 20
 - Kinesiology/Physical Education: Combatives, 41M, Self-defense - Women
 - Political Science 23, Sex, Gender and Power
 - Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 10, Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- **Voices of Hope**
Voices of Hope is a docudrama play written by Pamela Lassiter Cathey. Based on true stories, the play breaks through the silence around the many casualties of domestic violence, sexual abuse and Title IX violations. This production is a joint effort with the Theater Arts department and students, SMC Campus Police, and Human Resources/Title IX.
A video of this play can be found on the SVRP website: [Voices of Hope](#)

March/April Dates

- March 30: Sexual Assault Awareness Month kickoff event
Workshop: Consent and Intimate Partner Violence
- April 5: Workshop: Training Circuit for Everyone – Fitness Assists Your Wellbeing
- April 18: Workshop: Empowerment through Self Defense
- April 20: Workshop: Supporting Survivors of Trauma
- April 21 Workshop: Restorative Yoga
- April 26: Denim Day.
A day where the whole College community purposely wear jeans or denim.
Workshop: Art + Empowerment

Lisa Winter
Assistant Director, Human Resources, Compliance and Title IX
Office of Human Resources

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). At Santa Monica College (SMC), our goal has always been to provide support for survivors of sexual assault as well as raising community awareness about sexual harassment, crime, and abuse and educate communities on how to prevent it. SAAM prevention is only achieved through commitment, change, equity and respect.

During this time, we want the whole SMC community to know that you are not alone. While sexual violence does not just occur in April during this month at SMC, we annually provide a special focus to spotlight the issues.

We have created on ground and virtual events and a list of resources to provide support, education, virtual gathering and learning for victims and survivors of sexual assault and all those who are allies and care about them.



Events

Stay connected and engaged by checking out the events below.



Beyond Sex Toolbox Series

Workshop: Thursday, March 30, 2023

Consent and Intimate Partner Violence

Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.

Location: Zoom - [click to register](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023

Day of Action: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resolution

Supported by the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees

Wear the color teal to support survivors!

[Learn how to get more involved](#)



Workshop: Wednesday April 5, 2023

Training Circuit for Everyone – Fitness Assists Your Wellbeing

Time: 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Location: Fitness Center CPC Room 201

Join Kelly Lewith, from the Kinesiology/PE department. The impact of sexual assault often affects a survivor's relationship with their body. Many survivors find solace in fitness. This workshop will assist you in building a 20 to 30-minute fitness routine for your everyday schedule. The hardest part of your healing journey is ... starting. Come learn how you can improve your fitness with as little as 20 minutes of your day.

This class is limited so please sign up ahead of time. The class will start on time and there will be no late entries. You can check in on the day of the class to see if there are any open spaces available last minute. To ensure your spot please register by emailing ledwith_kelly@smc.edu

If you need an accommodation due to a disability to participate, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at dsps@smc.edu or 310-434-4265 at least 5 business days prior to the event.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023



Workshop: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Empowerment through Self Defense

Time: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Location: CPC Room 216

Join Garen Baghdasarian, from the Kinesiology/PE department. This workshop will consider strategies to avoid violent conflict, necessary self-defense tools for when physical altercation cannot be prevented, martial arts techniques that will help develop individual empowerment, claiming of your space, and survival under dangerous circumstances. Everyone is welcome wear comfortable clothes.

This class is limited to 24 so please sign up ahead of time. The class will start on time and there will be no late entries. You can check in on the day of the class to see if there are any open spaces available last minute. To ensure your spot please register by emailing BAGHDASARIAN_GAREN@smc.edu

If you need an accommodation due to a disability to participate, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at dsps@smc.edu or 310-434-4265 at least 5 business days prior to the event.



Beyond Sex Toolbox Series

Workshop: Thursday, April 20, 2023

Supporting Survivors of Trauma

Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12: 35 p.m.

Location: Zoom - [click to register](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023



Workshop: Friday, April 21, 2023

Restorative Yoga

Time: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Location: CPC Room 216

Join Karen Huner, from the Kinesiology/PE. This class is a gentle form of yoga that focuses on relaxation and stress relief. It is meant to promote a sense of safety and security in the body. It will encourage the release of emotional tension and help to calm the nervous system, connecting our body with our breath.

Please wear loose comfortable clothes in layers. The class will be a series of restorative pose while lying down. Everyone is welcome.

This class is limited to 25 students, so please sign up ahead of time. The class will start on time and there will be no late entries. You can check in on the day of the class to see if there are any open spaces available last minute. To ensure your spot please register by emailing Huner_karen@smc.edu

If you need an accommodation due to a disability to participate, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at dsps@smc.edu or 310-434-4265 at least 5 business days prior to the event.



Denim Day: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Wear Denim!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023



Workshop: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Art + Empowerment in honor of Denim Day

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: SMC Art Department Complex (RM 118)

Join Art Therapist and SMC Alumni Saba Harouni alongside SMC's Art department for an evening of food and art making. To commemorate Denim Day, we invite you to explore your inner voice and healing strategies through making and building art. Everyone participating will work on their own art pieces and can contribute to a larger dialogue as a group building a quilt of denim swatches. Denim, Materials, Food, Refreshments & More will be provided.

For more information contact Emily Silver, Art faculty Silver_Emily@smc.edu | [Other Denim Day Activities](#)

If you need an accommodation due to a disability to participate, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at dsps@smc.edu or 310-434-4265 at least 5 business days prior to the event.



Beyond Sex Toolbox Series

Workshop: Thursday, May 19, 2023

Unconscious Bias

Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12: 35 p.m.

Location: Zoom - [click to register](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023

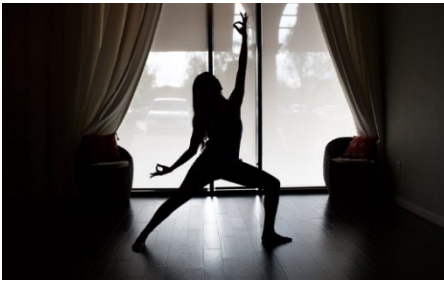
Class: Women's Self Defense

Blaine Eastcott Instructor Kin/PE 41W. A 16-week course designed to empower women to feel safe in their surroundings. The class covers prevention methods such as awareness, ways to conduct, carry yourself to ward off attackers, and methods and techniques to defend yourself if the unthinkable happens, including defensive strikes and escape techniques that will work on anyone, even a bigger and stronger opponent. You will have an answer for any way, anyone lays an unwanted hand on you. You will have these techniques for the rest of your life.

Other Activities

Attend a SAAM Event: Join from anywhere!

Stay connected and engaged any time by checking out the events below.



Meditation, Yoga and Mindfulness

In Honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Ground and breathe your way into a gentle and peaceful.

practice in the healing power of meditation, yoga and mindfulness

Click to [Join the Meditation, Yoga and Mindfulness Activities](#)



Empowerment Self Defense Training

Click to [Request an Empowerment Self Defense Training](#)

Peace Over Violence is offering Empowerment Self-Defense courses. They provide psychological awareness and verbal skills, not just physical training. Instructors utilize two cameras via Zoom—one for audio and one to display full range of motion for body movement throughout the class. Virtual self-defense classes can be provided in English and Spanish.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023

Sexual Assault Awareness Month



[National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)

NSVRC has many activities ideas [click here](#) for more information.

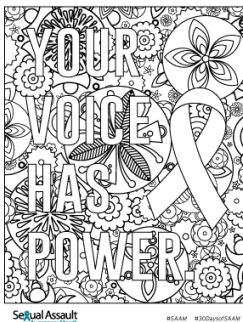
Day of Action: April 4, 2023

The first Tuesday of every April is the SAAM Day of Action. The Day of Action is an opportunity to start off the month with highly visible and coordinated actions. It's the perfect opportunity to plan an event, post SAAM-related social media content, or participate in the #30DaysofSAAM Instagram challenge.

To learn more [click here](#)

Participate in the #30DaysofSAAM on Instagram

Wear teal, the color of sexual violence prevention, and share your selfie or create a photo collage with your friends, co-workers, teammates, etc.



Heal through Coloring

[More coloring pages can be found here](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023

More Ways to Get Involved

Host a SAAM Event: Choose an event to host or create your own.

Spread the word on social media: Check out [social media guidance](#), [graphics](#), and [gifs](#) to help make your voice heard.

Donate to your [local rape crisis center](#) or an organization that provide services to survivors in your area. You can also consider [supporting NSVRC's work](#) to create safer communities and help survivors.

Join a Blog

[SAAM Blogs](#)

Check out some of the blogs below:

1. [SAAM2023 Glossary of Terms](#)
2. [A Survivor's Guide to Understanding Therapeutic Healing Pathways](#)
3. [Social Justice Booklist for Children, Teens, and Young Adults](#)
4. [Preventing Online Sexual Victimization of People with Developmental Disabilities](#)
5. [Bystander Intervention Online](#)
6. [Don't be a Noob - Talk to Boys About Online Safety](#)
7. [We Can Build Healthy Social Norms Online](#)
8. [Reentry into a Digital World](#)
9. [We Can End Digital Victim-Blaming: How to Support Survivors of Sexual Violence Online](#)
10. [Five Offline Strategies to Build 'Sexual Citizenship' Online](#)
11. [Five Takeaways from the First-Ever Completely Virtual SAAM](#)
12. [Six Ways You Can Support Survivors Online During SAAM](#)
13. [Start at Home: Modeling Healthy Behaviors Keeps Kids Safe](#)
14. [This Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Remember Incarcerated Survivors](#)
15. [Sexual Violence: We Know How to Stop It](#)

I want to do more at SMC

SMC has student clubs

Click [here](#) to find out about these student clubs

[Break the Silence](#)

[Gender Sexuality Alliance](#)

[Period Club](#)

Join one of the Student Equity Center Advisory Groups

Gender Equity Center

Racial Justice Center

Pride Center

Dream resource Center

For more information contact Thomas Bui, Associate Dean, Student Life at Bui_Thomas@smc.edu

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023

If you need to talk to someone

For Students

[Center for Wellness and Wellbeing](#) 310-434-4503

24/7 Emotional Support: Call 1-800-691-6003

[Health Services Center](#) 310-434-4262

[Ombuds Office](#) 310-434-3986

For Employees

[EASE \(Employee Assistance Services for Education\)](#)

1-800-882-1341

Other Confidential Support Services/Hotlines -- 24/7 and Free

[Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center](#) 424-259-6000

1250 16th Street, Santa Monica 90404

[Center for Pacific Asian Family Hotline](#) 1-888-339-3940

[LGBT National Help Center](#) 1-888-843-4564 or National Youth Talkline 1-800-246-7743

[RAINN](#): 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#): 1-800-799-7233

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#): 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711) or text them at 233-733

[Suicide Prevention Hotline](#): 1-800-273-8255

Click here for [Other SMC and community support services](#)

Advice and Self Care

[National Sexual Violence Resource Center - list of centers in EVERY state and territory](#)

[A Toolkit for Survivors During COVID-19](#)

[Self-Care for Sustainability and Impact Workbook](#)

[Student's Guide to Radical Healing](#)

Any questions about the events or resources contact

Lisa Winter, Assistant Director, Human Resources, Compliance and Title IX

310-434-4225 | Winter_lisa@smc.edu



BEYOND SEX TOOLBOX SERIES

Santa Monica College Spring 2023

8th Annual Beyond Sex Toolbox Workshop Series for Students!

Don't Miss This Workshop: Consent and Intimate Partner Violence

March 30, 2023

About the Workshop

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month which occurs in April, we want to discuss consent and intimate partner violence. Movements like #MeToo are empowering people to speak out about sexual harassment and sexual assault. This session will cover consent, sexual assault, and other emerging issues such as intimate partner violence. With a special guest speaker.

Hosted by the Office of Human Resources
HRNews@smc.edu



SMC is committed to empowering all students to take action to eliminate discrimination, harassment, and abuse. Any form of sexual violence, harassment, or physical abuse occurring against an SMC student, on SMC property, or at an SMC event or activity is a VIOLATION of District policies and regulations.

Unlawful discrimination is conduct that denies or limits a person's full and equal access to participate in, or benefit from education and/or employment programs, services, or activities. Sexual harassment or misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and is also unlawful under Title IX federal regulations.

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023
Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Location: [click to register](#)



Marisa Faynsod
Clinical Social Worker & Community Outreach Coordinator

Marisa is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, National certified Sexual Abuse Counselor, and certified training the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma. She provides therapy for sexually abused children and their families and is a crisis counselor. Her primary focus is on education prevention for college students, camp staff, and the Los Angeles community. She trains law enforcement and agencies in best practices for reporting and referring victims of sexual abuse.



BEYOND SEX TOOLBOX SERIES

Santa Monica College Spring 2023

8th Annual Beyond Sex Toolbox Workshop Series for Students!

Don't Miss This workshop: Supporting Survivors of Trauma

April 20, 2023

About the Workshop

This workshop occurs during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This workshop will provide you tools to apply a “trauma-informed” framework when responding to survivors, including what to say and how to actively seeking to decrease re-traumatization with students and colleagues and prevent secondary trauma. With a special guest speaker.

Hosted by the Office of Human Resources

HRNews@smc.edu



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Marisa Faynsod

Clinical Social Worker & Community Outreach Coordinator

Marisa is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, National certified Sexual Abuse Counselor, and certified training the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma. She provides therapy for sexually abused children and their families and is a crisis counselor. Her primary focus is on education prevention for college students, camp staff, and the Los Angeles community. She trains law enforcement and agencies in best practices for reporting and referring victims of sexual abuse.



BEYOND SEX TOOLBOX SERIES

Santa Monica College Spring 2023



[Bystander Intervention: How to Step Up](#)

Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023
Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Location: [click to register](#)

[Consent and Intimate Partner Violence](#)

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023
Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Location: [click to register](#)

[Supporting Survivors of Trauma](#)

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2023
Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Location: [click to register](#)

[Understanding Unconscious Bias and Microaggressions: Examples and Impact](#)

Date: Tuesday May 9, 2023
Time: 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Location: [click to register](#)

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For more information on Title IX: www.smc.edu/titleix

[For more information on the training programs or to talk to a person:](#)

Office of Human Resources Hours: M-F 8:00am—5:00pm
Tel: 310-434-4415
Email: HRNews@smc.edu

