Let’s Talk About Alcohol and Sex....

Letter from the Director

The recent Al Jazeera video incident featuring some KU students engaging in behavior that is both risky and dangerous leads me to comment. The behaviors and attitudes expressed in this video remind us that, while this does not represent all of our students, it is far too common. While many of us on campus invest substantial time and resources to educating and engaging students on these issues (including our Center; Institutional Opportunity and Access; Health Education Resources Office; KU Bystander Education Program), it is clear that these efforts alone are not enough to change pervasive cultural norms condoning alcohol abuse and sexual violence. I challenge all of us to ask the question, ‘what can I be doing to make a difference?’

Are we speaking up when we see a friend engaging in risky behavior? Are we thinking twice about language we use that promotes and condones overconsumption of alcohol and engaging in nonconsensual sex? Are we talking about these issues in our organizations to establish standards and guidelines? Are we challenging comments and posts on social media sites that are demeaning and negative? In addition, we all need to contribute to university efforts to address these problems such as the Title IX Roundtable launched by the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access and Emma Halling, Student Body Vice President. Speak up. Get involved. Changing the culture will take all of us working together – please do your part to make a difference.

Kathy Rose-Mockry, Director
Tips for Having a Safe Night Out in Lawrence

With all this talk about alcohol and consent floating around campus, we at the Center think it is very important to talk about how to stay safe while enjoying a fun night out in Lawrence. So what can you do to have the best night possible whether you are drinking or not? Luckily KU and the City of Lawrence offer a lot of resources to make sure everyone gets home safe.

❖ Think Before You Drink: Ladies and gents, the best thing you can do to avoid regretting last night is to make a plan ahead of time. Tell your friends whether or not it is ok to let you go home with someone that night. That way you have made a sober decision about where your night is heading.

❖ Getting Home Safe: Call Safe Ride (785-864-7233), Take Safe Bus (emilytaylorcenter.ku.edu/tips-safe-night-out), Call a cab (785-843-8294), Have a designated driver—just don’t accept a ride from a stranger!

❖ While You are Out: Have a buddy—that’s right the buddy system is great for college too! And of course, keep a watch over your drink, it is very easy to spike an unattended glass. Keep an eye on your purse or wallet. And last but not least, make sure your phone is fully charged before you leave the house for the evening.

Your Winter Break Survival Kit

Cozy up with these fun reads
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen
The Awakening by Kate Chopin
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Leading Men by Jackson Katz

Must Watch Movies
Iron Jawed Angels
Mona Lisa Smile
Fried Green Tomatoes
The Hours
The Women

There’s Always Room for Activities
Ice skating at Crown Center
Sledding down Daisy Hill
Volunteer at the Humane Society
Serve dinner at a soup kitchen
Drink hot cocoa with good friends
Call a cab on New Year’s Eve!!

Resources
ETC4WGE: www.emilytaylorcenter.ku.edu
The Office of Diversity and Equity: www.diversity.ku.edu
Kansans Advancing Women: www.kawpac.org
UChic: uchic.com