

Spring 2018

# I'M HERE FOR YOU



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

## About

This semesterly newsletter is intended for I'm Here For You sticker holders, Community Coalition on Gender-Based Violence members, and advocates. Each semester this newsletter will highlight happenings on campus related to gender-based violence, updated information regarding applicable laws, and links to articles of related interest.

## Upcoming Calendar

- **June 14th:**  
**I'm Here for You training**  
10am-11:30am  
Stritch/Cuneo Center 375
- **June 19th:**  
**I'm Here for You training**  
9am-10:30am  
McCormick Lounge

Contact Robin Berman at [rberman1@luc.edu](mailto:rberman1@luc.edu) for more details

## A NEW ADVOCATE

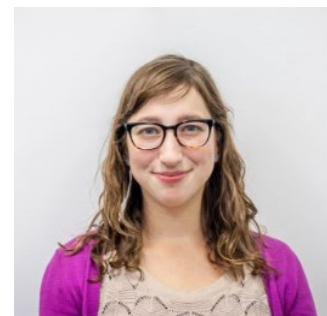
Robin Berman joined the Wellness Center in February 2018 as Senior Health Educator and Advocacy Coordinator. She has a Masters in Social Work and a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies from the University of Iowa.

Prior to joining the team at the Wellness Center, Robin worked at The University of Chicago as a Project Manager in a community-based sexual and reproductive healthcare research lab and The

University of Iowa as the Coordinator of Leadership Programs at the Women's Resource and Action Center.

Before transitioning into a career in higher education, Robin worked in gender-based violence prevention as an advocate specializing in LGBT+ outreach.

Robin will assume her confidential advocate role starting mid-June 2018. Mira Krivoshey, now the Assistant Director, Health Promotion will remain as an alternate advocate for students.



## ADVOCACY LINE NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Loyola's Sexual Assault Advocacy Line is an integral part of the advocacy services provided through the Wellness Center.

We will be conducting a needs assessment of the Advocacy Line with the goal of improving and expanding student access to the line.

This needs assessment will kick off in late summer with key informant interviews with faculty and staff who

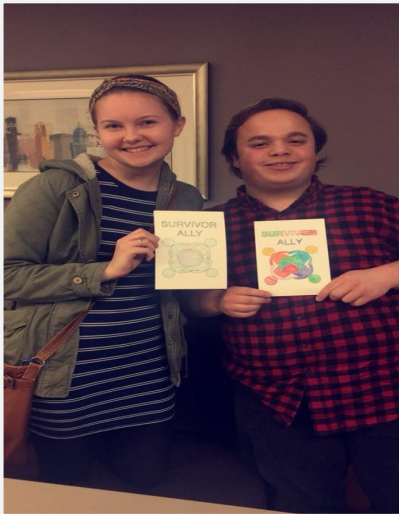
interact with students and might have opportunities to refer to the Advocacy Line.

Next, several student focus groups will be held in the fall. We will then analyze the data we have and assess our next steps to collect and disseminate more data.

At the end of this needs assessment, we expect to be able to strengthen the Advocacy Line and its reach to students.

# SAAM

Scenes from this semester's Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Survivor Ally Training



Embrace Your Voice with Zeke Thomas

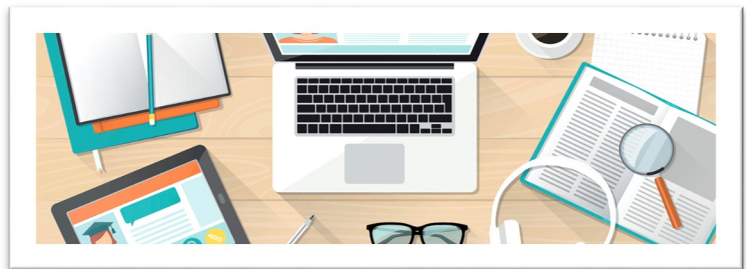
# UPDATES

For over a decade, Loyola has asked incoming students to take an EVERFI course on gender-based violence, including relationship violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sexual harassment.



This course was previously called Haven, but in order to give more clarity about the content, EVERFI has changed the name of this self-paced online training to Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates, with an accompanying program for graduate students.

Incoming students will receive information mid-July about taking Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates/Graduates. They will have until move in, August 23rd, to complete this training, as well as AlcoholEdu, Loyola's other self-paced online EVERFI training for students.



## ADVOCACY PROGRAM GROWS TO 12 NEW VOLUNTEERS

Advocacy Volunteers are crucial to the function of the Wellness Center's Sexual Assault Advocacy Line.

This spring, 12 graduate students and rising seniors were selected to receive intensive training to serve as advocates staffing the Advocacy Line on the weekends. This represents over a 200% increase in the number of students who applied last year.

The volunteers will also be planning one Safe Haven event each semester. This will provide further opportunities for survivors to gather, learn, and find support in an environment with trained advocates on hand.

These student volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds, from Social Work to Counseling to Public Policy. The fact that there are students from so many backgrounds shows us that people across academic disciplines care about gender-based violence prevention.



# UPCOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TITLE IX NOTICE AND COMMENT



In September of last year, the Department of Education withdrew Title IX policies and guidance previously issued by the Obama administration. The Department of Education has not published what the new regulations will be, but some differences can be expected.

These regulations will be established through a process known as "Notice and Comment." This is the process of soliciting public input on proposed regulations.

This process can have important implications, as the Department of Education is required to respond to the public input when they issue their finalized regulations.

Students can provide valuable contributions during this process, as they would be affected by these changes directly. Students writing detailed comments is an integral way to advocate for themselves and influence Department of Education decision-making.

The Notice and Comment period has not started, as the new regulations have not been published yet. It is integral for students to be ready to jump in as soon as this period begins, as courts can strike down regulations that do not adequately respond to public opinion.

For more information on this topic, please click:

[Know Your IX Notice and Comment 101 Video](#)

## There are 4 stages of Notice and Comment:

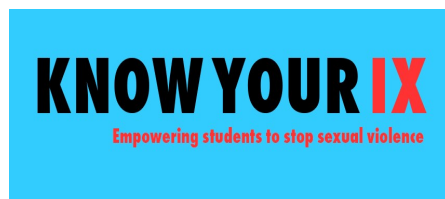
1. Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM)
2. Comment period
3. Issuance of final rule
4. 30-day delay in the date the rule goes into effect

When notice is given of proposed regulations, a date by which comments must be received will be published.

Once the comment period opens, comments can be submitted to the Department of Education through [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov)

Staff and Faculty can look for an announcement of the beginning of the notice and comment period on the Wellness Center and Dean of Students websites and social media.

Please see the detailed notes to the right for instructions on writing successful comments.



Tips on writing a comment  
Source: [Know Your IX](#)

- 1 **Use Data and Narratives Strategically:** Unfortunately, the comment process privileges the use of "objective" evidence such as quantitative data. Commenters who use data to back up their point may have their contributions taken more seriously than commenters who supply narratives in support of their claims. An effective comment should include narrative and quantitative data in support of its claims.
- 2 **Err on the side of inclusion:** Raise as many relevant issues as you can, with as much factual, legal, policy backup as you can, to show problems with the proposal. The Department of Education will either have to agree with you when it cannot come forward with honest defenses, or will be put to a lot more trouble to explain its basis and purpose in the record in order to survive a court's review. The more relevant arguments against a proposal that you can raise in the comments, the more points the agency will have to deal with in its final statement of basis and purpose, and the greater you increase the chance of finding a hook to convince a court to scrap the final rule. Also be sure to address trade-offs and opposing views in your comment.
- 3 **Clearly Organize Your Comment:** In many agencies, contractors are hired to read, summarize, and digest and categorize written public comments issue by issue. If you want your distinct point on a certain issue to end up in the right place in this summary and categorization, it is safer to make the contractor's job easier by leading him or her to the right place in your comments. Clearly identify the issues in the proposed regulation on which you are commenting. If you are commenting on a particular word, phrase or sentence, provide the page number, column, and paragraph citation from the federal register document.
- 4 **Suggest Alternatives:** If you disagree with a proposed action, suggest an alternative (including not regulating at all) and include an explanation of how the alternative might meet the same objective or be more effective.
- 5 **If You are a Lawyer or Law Student:** Make your comments look and sound like a legal brief – that will make agency personnel take your comments more seriously. In this regard, carefully consider the case law on judicial review of agency rules, and attack any element of the proposal that is weak, including arguments regarding statutory authority and interpretation and adherence to prescribed procedures.

## FACULTY

### Revisiting Student Activism

Student activism continues to [increase exponentially on college campuses](#), even more so than last semester. There is increased attention to gender-based violence, as well as other pressing matters, such as gun violence.

Students continue to need support in their efforts, and can benefit from guidance on best practices of campus activism. Here are some resources you can provide to students:

[NY Times: Teaching Unit on Student Activism in History and Today](#)  
[Resources to Understand Student Activism](#)

### Syllabus Language on Duty To Report

It is important that students have language to help them understand the role of faculty and staff in their duty to report student disclosures of incidences of gender-based violence. Below is suggested language for your syllabi about this duty. Should you have any questions, please refer to the [Coalition Website](#).

*Loyola University Chicago faculty are committed to supporting our students and upholding gender equity laws as outlined by Title IX. Therefore, if a student chooses to confide in a member of Loyola's faculty or staff regarding an issue of gender-based misconduct, that faculty or staff member is obligated to tell Loyola's Title IX Deputy Coordinator. The Title IX Deputy Coordinator will assist the student in connecting with all possible resources for support and reporting both on and off campus.*

## BEYOND #METOO: FALLOUT, NEXT STEPS

The hashtag #MeToo, launched by Activist Tarana Burke in 2006, gained momentum last fall after Actress Alyssa Milano tweeted it in response to [sexual harassment allegations against Harvey Weinstein](#).

Many survivors of sexual assault have used the wide spread of this hashtag to find their voice and speak up about sexual harassment or assault that they have experienced. Many powerful men in Hollywood who have perpetrated sexual assault or harassment are being exposed. They are having to reckon with public outcry, loss of jobs or projects, and lack of future opportunities.



In this wake, we have seen powerful men in Hollywood, like [Bill Cosby](#), found guilty of sexual assault. We have also seen large institutions taking major steps to confront sexual assault and to support survivors in ways that they can, like at [Michigan State University](#).

We have also seen a rise in women in Hollywood pushing back against rampant sexual harassment in the movie industry, even if the conversation remains contentious, as it was at [Cannes this year](#). With the #MeToo movement still picking up speed, we can expect to see more emphasis on not just awareness, but prevention.