

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2010 Theme: Prevent Sexual Assault...On Our Campuses

Sexual Assault Awareness Month, recognized nationally each April, is intended to draw attention to sexual violence as an intolerable crime with public health implications for us all. The State of Ohio strongly supports the dedicated efforts of national, state, and local partners to actively engage in efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault. This year, the official theme calls for us to prevent sexual assault on college and university campuses.

This year, the Ohio Campus Safety Task Force on Stalking, Interpersonal and Sexual Violence will publish and distribute an online guidebook through the Ohio Board of Regents to lay the foundation for strengthening Ohio's colleges in facilitating safety and respectfulness on all campuses. Sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact all Ohio campus communities as seen by statistics indicating that 1 in 5 women will have experienced sexual assault by the time they complete college.

As Ohioans, we must work together to educate our community about how to prevent sexual assault, support survivors and provide appropriate perpetrator interventions. We also must join staff and volunteers of anti-violence programs throughout Ohio to encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence, however small.

With leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence across Ohio through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions. Please join me in recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

ON THIS FIRST DAY OF APRIL, TWO THOUSAND AND TEN



Ted Strickland
Governor of Ohio