

## **University Metanoia: Preventing Violence Against Women**

**When:** October 2009 (thirty years after the October 4, 1979 metanoia on violence against women). A week of events could kick off on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009 (ending as late as Saturday, Oct. 10).

The calendar of events should be set and disseminated as soon as possible, so that faculty may plan Fall 2009 syllabi accordingly and organizations may prepare for their involvement.

### **Focus:**

A day of Metanoia – as described in *The Connecticut Daily Campus* in October of 1979 -- is “a concept meaning ‘change of attitude’ that was introduced at UConn in 1970.” In 1979, the theme was “Violence in the Community” and was prompted by both the brutal sexual assault of a graduate student and incidents of racist violence on campus.

Thirty years later, students have again called for an opportunity to reflect and create opportunities for a “change in attitude” -- not to recreate the 1979 Metanoia, but to build on it. We can reflect on how far the University and the culture have come in terms of victim support, interventions, and prevention efforts – and how far we have to go in changing the attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors that continue to support violence against women on our campuses. UConn is often recognized across the state and the nation for our comprehensive programming and services in the area of violence prevention. The quality of those programs are due not only to the dedication of many members of our campus community, but also to their willingness to reflect on current and emergent campus issues, and more importantly on the ways in which we can engage in continuous improvement of our prevention, intervention and advocacy services surrounding violence against women. Building on the work of the Women’s Center’s Violence Against Women Prevention Program, the Vice President’s Task Force on Campus Climate/Violence Against Women, and the Community Response Team, this is a call to move beyond the headlines and discussion of blue lights and self-defense, to a deeper, more critical examination of ourselves and our community. It is an opportunity to create space to address this issue openly, honestly, and earnestly, and to explore what we want to do differently as we move into the next 30 years.

### **What:**

Two class days (Wednesday, Oct. 7 and Thursday, Oct. 8)

- Professors/instructors encouraged to discuss the issue in their class, on their own or utilized resources/modules made available to the campus community
- Trained facilitators can be available to come to classes (by arrangement)

- Large halls (von der Mehden, Student Union theatre, Konover, etc.) could be available for multiple classes to come together for shared lectures/discussions (on the class schedule) (by arrangement).

Other programming throughout the week

- Arts (e.g., film series, theatre performances, art exhibits)
- Women's Center programs
- Readings (literature, poems)
- Cultural centers, student organizations, fraternities and sororities (discussions, events)

**Where:**

All University of Connecticut campuses. Planning should begin in Spring 2009 with a planning committee that has representatives from across the University.