Georgia College Grant aims to tackle sexual assault nurse examiner shortage

On any given day, an estimated 20,000 phone calls come into domestic violence hotlines across the country, according to the National Automatic Cardiac Device Emergency (NACDE) Foundation. On top of that, 45 percent of female rape victims and 75 percent of male victims were raped by an intimate partner. Researchers to serve domestic or sexual abuse victims can sometimes be scarce, especially in rural areas. Of the more than 80,000 registered nurses in the state, few are trained in the specialized care of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Georgia College School of Nursing is helping to bridge that gap.

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) campus-based training program, funded by an $803,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), began in fall 2018. It covers the cost of classroom and clinical training, professional organization membership, certification and continuing education for nurses.

Of 20 or so grants that were awarded nationwide, with Georgia College being the only organization in the state to receive these federal funds.

“Women’s health is my clinical specialty, and I have always had an interest in forensic nursing,” said Dr. Josie Doss, associate professor of nursing and the grant writer. The training program follows the educational guidelines of the International Association of Forensic Nursing (IAFN). Nurses participate in online and clinical skills training related to medical forensic history, medical-forensic exam, evidence collection, documentation and professional court testimony.

Great partners include Noreen Baldwin and the Georgia Department of Public Health. Both serve as clinical practice and recruitment sites of qualified nurses who want to become SANE certified.

“We specifically partnered with Noreen Baldwin because of the rural setting and a positive long-standing practice partnership,” said Doss. “Much of the clinical training takes place in the Georgia College Simulation and Translational Research Center within the facility.”

“The Department of Public Health was another conscious choice because of a long standing practice partnership and the clinical practice opportunities they provide. In recategorization for the grant, we were also able to utilize the training opportunities, we provide Department of Health Nursing priority admission into the training program and place trained professionals in an environment where they may be able to reach victims who would not otherwise seek care.”

Since implementation of the program, additional practice partnerships have been established or are being pursued with local, free-standing sexual assault centers including Bright House, a divi-

Georgia College's Jazz Band celebrates its 50th year in 2019 with “60/50: A Century of Music by a Fifty-Year-Old Jazz Band.” This year marks the 50th anniversary of the University's first jazz ensemble and the 100th year of the school of music.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) recently gave Georgia College an A ranking on their Vegan Report Card. This signified that the university’s dining services goes above and beyond to meet the needs of plant-based diets.

According to PETA, vegan eating has exploded in popularity on college campuses nationwide. Since 2013, the number of schools receiving an A grade has more than tripled. More information of clay@peta.org.

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Georgia College and State University


Georgia College's dining hall, called the MAX, offers at least one vegan meal at every meal, has non-dairy milk available, labels vegan entrees and desserts, and offers an all-vegan station. The university also adds a vegan member to its dining student advisory board as well as actively promotes vegan options to the greater campus community.

Veganism is a lifestyle that excludes all animal products. According to PETA, vegan eating has exploded in popularity on college campuses nationwide. Since 2013, the number of schools receiving an A grade has more than tripled.

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