

Futures Without Violence –Audacious Project Application 2019

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[Bringing #MeToo to US schools](#)

The Irish Times

June 16, 2018 Saturday

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Section: WEEKEND; Pg. 5

Length: 851 words

Byline: Sara Miller Llana

Body

On a frigid morning in Madison, Wisconsin, where frost edges the windows, Erin Vogel reads aloud to her second-grade class at Crestwood Elementary School.

The story is about Red, a confused crayon whose name doesn't match his real colour. Everything he draws comes out blue. "He was red," Vogel reads, "but he wasn't very good at it." She turns to her students, sprawled on colourful mats on the classroom floor, and asks what they think the story is about.

"It's about, it doesn't matter who you are on the outside," one student, Kate, volunteers. "If they see he's red, and he actually comes out blue, then they just have to say, 'It's okay, he's different.'"

It's a standard exchange here, part of a broader push by the Madison Metropolitan School District to combat bullying and harassment by fostering empathy and inclusion. And it is not the only one. Madison is part of a patchwork of efforts in schools around the United States, both big and small, to root out sexism before it takes hold and expresses itself in the workplace, and to prevent the abuse or domestic violence at the centre of the #MeToo movement.

There are many countries, to be sure, where such efforts would be culturally inappropriate - even illegal. Some of the gender-education work still riles parents who worry about liberal agendas creeping into classrooms. Yet there is increasing evidence that the kinds of formal lessons that schools can offer, in which teachers are trained to recognise and counteract old patterns of thinking, can help change how a new generation treat each other.

Imbalance of power

"These kids are growing up with an awareness that there is an imbalance of power in our society, and they're being challenged to unpack that and break it down," says Joshua Forehand, principal at Nuestro Mundo Community School, an elementary school in Wisconsin that has introduced discussions on gender and identity into the school plan.

Across the country, schools are increasingly incorporating their gender-equality teaching at the elementary school level, when more formal lessons begin. The idea is to give students the chance to think about inclusion and diversity as they're learning to read and write.

Central to the Madison School District's work is Welcoming Schools, a programme of the non-profit Human Rights Campaign Foundation. It began as a response to the needs of transgender students and students who don't identify as exclusively either male or female. Now it aims to address broader themes, such as equality and tolerance across genders.

It is one of a number of programmes across the United States that has sprung up since the early 2000s.

Some programmes, such as Expect Respect, a programme of the SAFE Alliance in Austin, Texas, started as support groups for students who experienced either violence at home or abusive dating and peer relationships. Others - including **Coaching Boys Into Men**, which began in California's Bay Area - focus on raising compassionate boys and redefining masculinity.

Educators say the programmes are having an effect. "We are raising a generation of boys who see girls as equals," says Erin Vogel, the second-grade teacher. "And we're hoping they'll grow into men who understand that women have the same rights and deserve the same respect they do."

Beyond anecdotal

Evidence of their success goes beyond the anecdotal. The bedrock of programmes such as Welcoming Schools is research that ties bullying at an early age - and especially gender-based bullying - to sexual harassment in adolescence and adulthood.

In 2003, an evaluation of the Expect Respect Elementary School project found that students who participated in role-playing and class discussions could identify more accurately than their peers what sexual harassment looked like. The programme also raised awareness and - more importantly - changed expectations about responses to bullying and harassment.

But many diversity and tolerance programmes, including Welcoming Schools, have run into resistance - particularly over topics such as same-sex parents.

In October, an Atlanta middle school faced a heavy backlash after parents learned that sixth-graders had been quizzed on sexual identity. A high school teacher in Cambridge, NY, was suspended in November for distributing handouts about sexuality and gender.

"Some parents don't want their first- and second-graders coming home saying that people can have different family structures," says Dorothy Espelage, a psychology professor at the University of Florida. Still, she says educators should reach students as young as possible, always in a climate of respect. "You want to start this conversation in kindergarten," she says. "But it has to be developmentally sensitive."

Ultimately, teaching prevention is not about protecting a victim or punishing a perpetrator, but empowering society to recognise the flaw. "Students in intervention groups felt more empowered to do something about sexual harassment," says Barri Rosenbluth, a social worker who carried out the CDC study of harassment prevention. "That's the real change factor: courageous bystanders."

Governor Walker Highlights Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Targeted News Service

October 3, 2018 Wednesday 7:20 AM EST

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Length: 337 words

Byline: Targeted News Service

Dateline: ANCHORAGE, Alaska

Body

Gov. Bill Walker, R-Alaska, issued the following news release:

Governor Bill Walker signed a proclamation recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Alaska. Half of adult women in Alaska will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes, and about 1 in 5 Alaskan children will witness it, creating trauma that can affect them for the rest of their lives.

"Domestic violence undermines the fundamental right of Alaskans to be safe at home, and can have effects for generations." Governor Walker said, "We must continue to combat family violence and raise generations of Alaskans to treat others with respect and dignity. The work of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) and its network across the state are critical to this effort. I urge Alaskans to stand together against domestic violence and to build a future in which Alaska families are connected by trust."

CDVSA is helping lead the state's charge to combat domestic violence throughout Alaska. Communities are building prevention teams and implementing projects including Green Dot AK, Girls on the Run, ***Coaching Boys into Men***, Fourth R, and Talk Now Talk Often to raise awareness to prevent domestic violence. Earlier this year, CDVSA awarded over \$18 million to community organizations to provide support and resources to survivors of domestic violence in urban and rural Alaska.

"CDVSA is committed to building an Alaska freed from domestic violence and sexual assault," Executive Director L. Diane Casto said. "While public attention has turned towards these issues, it is absolutely critical that communities commit to creating an environment free of interpersonal violence. Only then will behaviors change, and true progress be made."

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing domestic violence or needs immediate help or assistance, dial 911.

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[Smetanka preaches values to GCC](#)

Tribune-Review (Greensburg, PA)

August 13, 2018 Monday

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Length: 455 words

Byline: by DAVE MACKALL

Body

For Aaron Smetanka, Greensburg Central Catholic's pollyannaish, second-year football coach, winning games is important, but it's not the only goal.

Showing respect, demonstrating teamwork and generally achieving a sense of enjoyment are some of the others. Developing a solid character to carry into adulthood, more than anything, is paramount.

The rest, he said, will take care of itself.

"He's shown us all along that our well-being is his first priority," senior lineman Matt Hogan said.

There will be plenty of togetherness at GCC for the next couple of months. On Monday, the Centurions officially open training camp after spending a week at heat-acclimation drills.

GCC, coming off a 3-7 record in Smetanka's first season, will open its schedule Aug. 24 at home against New Philadelphia (Ohio) Tuscarawas Central Catholic before playing at Riverview on Aug. 31 in its first WPIAL Class A Eastern Conference game.

As he began to prepare for his second season at GCC, Smetanka found himself taking the focus off game outcomes, something seemingly foreign to most coaches at any level of any sport.

Remembering his playing days at Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic and his playing and coaching time in college at Robert Morris and Saint Vincent, Smetanka decided to introduce his team to a life-help program known as "**Coaching Boys Into Men**."

GCC players and coaches completed the weeklong course at Blackburn Center of Westmoreland County, a domestic and sexual violence supportive center, which adopted the motto, "Standing together to end violence."

"We were the only school from Westmoreland County to do it," Smetanka said.

The program was held with the support of UPMC, Pitt and the Steelers, who later asked Smetanka to speak on the subject of domestic violence and how to curb it during their annual training camp at Saint Vincent.

"We learned some valuable lessons," Hogan said.

"Lessons on keeping your emotions in check, respecting women and girls, developing good social media habits. All these things we can apply to our everyday lives and to our time on the football field. It's all about respect."

Victories are important, too. Of course, Smetanka is no different than most any other coach in the heat of a Friday night fray. But the "**Coaching Boys Into Men**" program will be on his mind and, he hopes, the minds of his players and coaching staff for years to come.

"The program was something I wanted to do," Smetanka said. "It's great for the kids. I saw things when I was coaching at college and when I was a player, where my teammates didn't seem like they had the proper guidance. I was raised with that Catholic background, where the values I learned in the Catholic school system I hold true in my own life."

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2017 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN AWARDS LUNCHEON

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

June 18, 2018 Monday, SOONER EDITION

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Section: MAGAZINE; Pg. C-2

Length: 365 words

Byline: Natalie Bencivenga

Body

When and where: Wednesday afternoon at the Westin Convention Center and Hotel, Downtown.

#ReportToTheCommunity: The United Way of Southwestern Pa. held its annual awards luncheon to honor the community star performers who have helped to impact our neighbors in need. The luncheon was unlike any other that I have attended, complete with a lip-sync routine to Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk" performed by Kim Fleming, Ryan, Justin and Trey Tillotson. Hefren Tillotson closed its campaign to raise funds for the United Way with an entertaining employee activity, like lip-sync battles! The luncheon also highlighted the important work that the organization is doing with kids, reaching more than 110,000 children in our region, including the **Coaching Boys Into Men** initiative. This program focused on teaching young athletes about respectful behavior to help reduce and prevent sexual assault and violence against women and girls. More than 255 coaches and 2,100 athletes from 40 schools around the region participated.

"We are passionate supporters of the preventative work that the United Way is doing to help children start out strong and keep dreaming," said Kenyon Bonner, vice provost and dean of students at the University of Pittsburgh. Bob Nelkin, CEO and president of the United Way of SWPA, also chatted on stage with women who have used services that the United Way provides, including small grants to help them get back on their feet after job loss or other issues that could lead to homelessness or food insecurity. After a heartfelt conversation, the Vintage Line Soul Dancers, a dance group at The Vintage Center for Active Adults in East Liberty, took to the stage to show off their moves. The 2017 campaign, which brought together corporations from around the community to help create a lasting and positive impact in the region, raised a staggering \$32,436,073 for initiatives that support people from all stages and walks of life.

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Runners rally against domestic violence in Longmont 5K run

Colorado Daily: University of Colorado at Boulder

September 15, 2018 Saturday

University Wire

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Section: CU-BOULDER; Pg. 1

Length: 597 words

Byline: John Marinelli For the Camera

Body

Runners gathered today in Longmont not to compete against one another so much as to defeat domestic violence and support those affected by it.

Roughly 75 adults and children massed Saturday at Longmont's McIntosh Lake to support the Safe Shelter of St. Vrain and the Longmont Ending Violence Initiative at their 5th annual 5K run.

As people trickled in to Dawson Park, volunteers at a tent set up in the shade registered them and gave out bibs. Participants and organizers mingled, waiting in the cool morning air.

Among the crowd was Danielle Dickson, who when asked why she came out to the race said, "Domestic violence is an important issue to me. I'm a former victim advocate in domestic violence in Denver and I'm currently a therapist here in the Longmont area, so I wanted to come out and give my support."

Ken Giles, another runner, said it was his second year at the 5K. "Domestic violence used to be a joke in popular culture back in the 50's... and now it's getting its day as something we need to stop," he said.

As time passed and participants gathered around the starting line to begin, J.P. Butler of the Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley spoke, giving a heartfelt remembrance of JoAnn Grosswiler, the Safe Shelter's former Emergency Shelter Director who passed away this past February, and dedicated the annual 5K to her.

Julie List, the shelter's executive director, then grabbed the microphone. Advertisement

"It's been a tough year for us in a lot of ways, and so having our community support us is always the most important piece of our outreach and what we do," she said. "So I'm not gonna talk anymore, I'm just gonna let you run 'cause I know that's why you came this morning."

As List yelled "go!" the crowd lurched forward, pouring through the gates.

During the race, List talked about why it's been such a tough year for the Safe Shelter.

"Well, for whatever reason, we're not certain the cause, things, client situations, have been increasingly violent," she said.

List added that the recent triple homicide in Frederick has also sent waves through the community of domestic violence survivors in the Longmont area.

"Calls went up and concerns in the community have heightened... hopefully the awareness that results from it will help others to come forward," she said.

Some of the proceeds of the 5K will go towards helping these people that are coming forward. They'll also be going toward community education programs like ***Coaching Boys Into Men***, an athletics mentorship program for young boys that teaches them to have healthy relationships. Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley offers many other services as well, including a 24-hour crisis hotline and emergency shelters.

Kim Heard, the project coordinator for LEVI, said her organization focuses more on prevention.

"I'm trying to help people [domestic violence victims] not fall through the cracks. So I do a lot of prevention, I do a lot of presentations out in the community, a lot to middle school age on teen dating violence and healthy relationships. I personally do about 100 presentations a year."

Almost as soon as the race began, it ended; with some of the first to complete the run finishing in under a half hour. After everyone crossed the finish line, winners in each age group were announced, drawing applause from the tired but enthusiastic crowd. Runners, proud of their accomplishment, seemed more than happy that they came out to support LEVI and the Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley.

"It's a great way to get people out and do something they love doing and also support what we love doing," List said.

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Milwaukee program enlists coaches to prevent sexual assault

Associated Press State & Local

November 20, 2018 Tuesday 8:51 PM GMT

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Section: STATE AND REGIONAL

Length: 1696 words

Byline: By ALLISON DIKANOVIC of Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service.

Dateline: MILWAUKEE

Body

MILWAUKEE (AP) - At the end of practice recently, Jerome Gray gathered his basketball team at Young Coggs Williams High School into a huddle. After players put their hands in the middle and yelled, "family," on three, Gray brought them into a classroom and took out his playbook.

But rather than talking about strategy or describing a new defense, he asked his players what the word respect means to them, and why it's important. Before anyone took off their basketball shoes to go home, the team had a 10-minute discussion about what it means to respect themselves and those they are in relationships with.

Though a change of pace from the "hard" coaching style that Gray usually uses, he said his players appeared to still be engaged and interested in what he was talking about. That's the point.

Gray is one of 30 coaches in Milwaukee participating in a pilot through the city of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention called ***Coaching Boys into Men***. The 12-week program gives coaches the tools and curriculum to facilitate conversations with their teams about healthy relationships, boundaries, aggression, communication, consent and equality.

The nonprofit news outlet Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service provided this article to The Associated Press through a collaboration with Institute for Nonprofit News.

Shana Kidd, violence prevention coordinator at OVP, got the idea to start the program after a meeting on the topic of sexual assault. She said it was clear that the way men think of themselves, treat women and behave in relationships is central to the issue of sexual assault, but she felt young men especially were lacking the knowledge, information and modeling of what it means to be in healthy, respectful relationships.

"Some of our young men are not being taught certain things or it's going in one ear and out the other," she said.

Reggie Moore, director of OVP, agreed.

"If we are really going to eradicate what we are seeing as far as the abuse and harassment of our women and girls in our community, we have to start with us as men," he said.

Kidd said she knew from her experiences working with young people that athletes often are leaders in their schools and have positive relationships with their coaches. So, she thought that if she wanted to reach young men, coaches would be a natural place to start.

"Sports has tremendous influence, not only in culture, but in our young people in general," she said.

She found that a program such as the one she dreamed up already existed: it's called ***Coaching Boys into Men***, and was started in 2000 by the national nonprofit and advocacy organization Futures Without Violence. Since then, the program has been implemented across the country as well as internationally, and has been proven to work.

The concept is simple - leverage the unique influence that coaches have on their players to promote healthy and respectful relationships. Organizers and coaches hope that the impact could be huge.

Reggie Moore said that in a time when national leaders have dismissed violent language toward women as "locker room talk," it's the perfect time to shift the conversations happening in locker rooms to show that violence is not acceptable.

"A lot of times the athletes in our schools and in our communities are leaders, and they're the cats that other people follow," Moore said. "So if we can reach them and change their mindset and change their behavior, then they can set the standard for other brothers in our community."

Gray said that in a small school such as Young Coggs, students really look up to the basketball team.

"If I can just reach one of my guys, then that activates a whole circle of people. It can affect another guy, another guy," Gray said. "This program is so dope because it could actually help change the whole culture."

And a culture change is exactly what's needed when talking about healthy relationships and sexual assault. A national study commissioned by Stop Street Harassment in January 2018 looked at a broad range of behaviors - including

verbal assault, unwelcome touching, and online harassment - and reported that 81 percent of women and 43 percent of men said they had experienced some form of sexual harassment or assault during their lifetimes.

The study showed that the problem starts young, with 57 percent of women and 42 percent of men saying that they first experienced sexual harassment or assault by age 17. High school-age, 14-to-17-years-old, was the most frequently selected age people reported for their first experience of harassment or assault.

In Wisconsin, an average of more than 5,000 cases of sexual assault are reported to law enforcement each year, according to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services data points out that nationally, only 39 percent of sexual assaults are reported, so that means an estimated 13,000 incidents of sexual assault occur in Wisconsin each year.

"We have to react and respond lovingly to those who have been harmed by violence, but the prevention piece is really critical if we want to stop the tide of violence that we see," said Carmen Pitre, president and CEO of the Sojourner Family Peace Center, which is Wisconsin's largest service provider for families dealing with domestic violence.

"We say ball is life," Gray said. "I put the challenge to my guys: you can tie any situation back to basketball." For example, being a great teammate requires a lot of the same qualities and behaviors as being a great friend or partner, he said.

Gray said he appreciates how the **Coaching Boys Into Men** curriculum uses the structure and principles of sports and teamwork to talk about real-life situations and get into big concepts such as healthy masculinity.

"Young people can get different ideas of what it means to be a man," Gray said. "They think it's all about being the tough guy. It's not always about strength and toughness. It's about accepting, sacrificing, supporting and working together."

The coaches' 12 lessons are on play sheets created by OVP featuring the curriculum made available by Futures Without Violence. "Time-out" cards are scenarios for how to intervene and use an inappropriate behavior as a teachable moment. While using sports-centric language, the curriculum delves into topics including insulting language, taking personal responsibility for actions, understanding consent, communicating boundaries, online harassment, relationship abuse and promoting equality.

After Kidd and Moore hosted two training sessions, coaches across the city are beginning to implement the curriculum into their practices once a week. Their play sheets include information about websites and hotlines, and Kidd will be visiting each site and checking in with coaches throughout the season to see if they need more support. Players and coaches take surveys before, during and after the season, and at the end of the program, participants will sign a pledge to affirm their commitment to what they've learned.

Kidd said that her goal for the pilot is to get young people to think more about their choices and to be equipped with information and support that they didn't have before, to hopefully expand the program to other coaches, and to create a counterpart program for young women.

"With this program, it really dissects situations and uses critical thinking as a solution," she said.

Gray said he hopes it gives a platform for his players to talk about and see how some situations they might think are funny or normal are actually harmful, and that they feel equipped to have healthy relationships in all areas of their lives.

Though some of these conversations might be difficult to have, Gray said that he feels that as a young male role model, he is in an important position to be the one to have them with his team. He recalled the positive and lasting impacts that his own coaches have had on him throughout his life.

"Having that important male figure to talk to about these issues can change everything," he said. "I know if they're looking to anybody right now, it's me."

He said that he's "very close" with his team.

"They can actually relate to me," he said. "I dress how they dress. I listen to a lot of the same music as them."

Futures Without Violence reported that "coaches consistently rate as the (No. 1) positive influence on today's youth."

"When you have coaches having these conversations with them, they tend to receive it better because it's not coming from a parent," Kidd said. "For a lot of our young people, coaches are a mentor, a father figure, a big brother, an uncle."

Evidence shows that this strategy is effective. In 2012, the Center for Disease Control completed a three-year evaluation of the **Coaching Boys into Men** program in Sacramento, California. The study found that athletes who participated in **Coaching Boys into Men** were significantly less likely to perpetrate abuse, and significantly more likely to positively intervene when witnessing instances of abusive or disrespectful behaviors among peers.

Pitre said **Coaching Boys into Men** creates space for new groups of people to participate in the work of ending violence.

"This issue is about all of us and the kind of quality of community that we want to live in," she said. "We all have to participate in preventing the kinds of things we don't want to see or happen to people here."

From years of experience working to end domestic violence and sexual assault, Pitre said she knows it's not going to be easy to broach some of these tough topics with young people. She said that all adults, especially pastors, doctors, teachers and parents, need to become more comfortable talking about these topics and serving as role models.

"These conversations are difficult for all of us," she said. "Human relationships are complicated, and we are always evolving."

Gray said he's looking forward to the process.

"I'm excited to be able to touch on a topic and see it come into play on the court; but this season, even more so off the court," he said.

The nonprofit news outlet Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service provided this article to The Associated Press through a collaboration with Institute for Nonprofit News.

ECISD implementing Coaching Boys into Men

Odessa American (Texas)

February 3, 2019 Sunday

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Section: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

Length: 1154 words

Byline: Ruth Campbell, Odessa American, Texas

Body

Feb. 03--As a way to change the culture, **Coaching Boys into Men** is being implemented at all of Ector County Independent School District middle school campuses.

Aaron Thomas, Crisis Center of West Texas Battering Intervention and Prevention Program coordinator and community service manager said **Coaching Boys into Men** is a character building leadership curriculum where they are trying to change norms in schools.

Coaches are some of the top influencers at the schools and young men look up to them, Thomas said.

"It (the curriculum) talks about how to treat women and girls with respect, insulting language, consent, boundaries, communication. It's a whole plethora of things that they talk about in those 12 weeks to start shedding that light on why do I do what I do," Thomas said.

It also teaches athletes how to confront people if they see something negative going on at the school.

"This is something that I've been doing some research on. The average age of a young man starting to watch porn is 11. At 11 years old, young men start to objectify women in a way that shows them less human than they are. In the middle schools, it's kind of where the mindsets and the concepts that are going to follow these young men through life start to begin," Thomas said. "So starting to have these conversations earlier could potentially stop someone from getting into trouble because they didn't know, or have, the information that we're trying to give them now."

If it works, it could be something that's offered community and area wide.

"It's real. I was in the oilfield for five years. This is something totally different. I've been doing it for a year and a half and experiencing it and seeing it," Thomas said. "It can change your life. Another reason why we wanted to put this in school is because I have a class for men who have been abusive on Sundays. And a lot of those men age range from 18 to 50 and older. They were just saying, 'I wish I had this information when I was growing up.'"

It clicked that no one was giving these men information. They were just picking up information and assuming they were living their lives right, Thomas said. The program changes the young men's perspective.

"Now they can't say they didn't know because you knew and you still did it. We're just trying to give them that information to keep them out of trouble," Thomas said.

The coaches are presenting the topics and Thomas said if there is something the coach isn't sure about, they can call him.

"This is more of a hands-on type approach where every two or three weeks I'm going to go out to the school and just kind of see how it's going and if they need any help," Thomas said. "I really want to see it work; give these young men information. It can really transform and change their life. It's one of those things where if it catches on it can be a community wide thing to where not only just the athletes are learning it, it's everyone in the community."

ECISD Executive Director of Athletics Bruce McCrary said students are influenced by what they see and hear on social media, TV, movies and video games.

"... This is a program that's organized. It addresses a lot of topics that we needed to address to get kids to learn how to respect other people; how to handle conflicts in the right way. I think it originally started because of the problems that some men have with disrespecting women. The coaches said they were seeing some of the same things in junior high boys that they didn't know how to respect the opposite sex, including teachers," McCrary said.

"It's not the fault of the kids. It's the things that they're being influenced by. If we can get kids to learn those things, it affects our classrooms and when you have a positive atmosphere in the classroom, you have a better learning environment," McCrary added.

If they respect the teacher, they will take the class more seriously.

"We were having some issues with junior high boys saying the wrong things, disrespectful things to teachers," McCrary said.

He added that a lot of times, the athlete would tell the coach they didn't know they couldn't do the thing they did.

"Our coaches have a lot of influence over kids and so this is a system for them to be able to have an organized plan to address some of those topics," McCrary said.

The program is 15 minutes a week for 12 weeks, "but what happens is they use that 15 minutes to address a topic and typically that 15 minutes turns into longer because kids want to talk about it. They have questions that hopefully stimulate the kids to ask more questions, but sometimes a kid will hear it in a group and they'll go to a coach one-on-one and say, 'This happened the other day. How should I have handled that?' That kind of stuff," McCrary said.

McCrary said the district will look at the program's effectiveness at the end of the year and see, for example, what impact it had on the attitude in the classrooms and if there was less conflict in the hallways.

He added that the coaches of girls' teams want a program, too.

"We're working on that with the Crisis Center and hope to be able to have ... a program with the girls that we can turn out in August because our female coaches want the same thing. They need to teach their girls right and wrong in a lot of areas," McCrary said.

Nimitz Middle School Athletic Coordinator Danny Wright said he thinks ***Coaching Boys into Men*** will have a positive impact this year and years down the road. It also will help prepare students to become better husbands, better men, better brothers and better friends.

"I think it doesn't happen overnight, but you have to start from somewhere. As coaches, whether we like it or not, we are role models," Wright said.

It's important that coaches make sure that they do what they say and say what they do.

"You can't penalize the kid for doing something that they see you do. ...," Wright said.

He added that he's excited about the program and thinks men in general would benefit from it.

"I know some 40-year-old boys, some 50-year-old boys. I also am privileged enough to know some 14- and 15-year-old men and you celebrate that. But I think the principal, the teachers, the more aware that your school becomes that

the program is in place I think the whole faculty will start to appreciate and start to see your athlete in a better light. So it's a win-win. I think the parents would appreciate that we place that much importance on their child ... rather than win, win, win," Wright said.

He added that he has not gotten a lot of feedback yet because the program is still in the early stages. But even if ECISD doesn't continue it, it will stay with the students as they go through life.

"This is giving something to a child without wanting anything in return. How often does that happen?" Wright said.

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SENATOR COSTA ANNOUNCES \$350,000 IN ANTI VIOLENCE GRANT FOR WOODLAND HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITIES

States News Service

April 30, 2019 Tuesday

Copyright 2019 States News Service

Length: 487 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: HARRISBURG, Pa.

Body

The following information was released by the Pennsylvania State Senator Jay Costa:

Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa, Jr. announced today \$350,000 in state grant funding in a violence prevention initiative for the Woodland Hills School District communities in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

"Last year, we in state government decided that had seen enough violence in our schools and communities and created a grant program for schools and organizations to make their facilities and neighborhoods safer," said Senator Costa. "Our community stepped up and submitted worthy applications for these grants to reduce violence and I'm anxious to see their work brought to fruition."

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape will deliver a comprehensive approach to reducing sexual violence by primarily working with WHSD and continued work in the community through the parents and community members of the district.

"When we created these grants, I made it a priority to ensure that Woodland Hills and the surrounding area got the funds they need for anti-violence programming," said Senator Costa. "I also want to thank the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape for taking the lead in developing this project."

The proposed programs include an after-school program for K-6 th grade, two days a week; social norms group; ***Coaching Boys Into Men*** (CBIM); Athletes Leading Change (ALC); Parents in the Know (PITK) trainings to other professionals, and the use of a Community Readiness Model (CRAM), which measures a community's readiness to change.

These programs will serve up to 3,500 students and 600 adults, as well as surrounding communities with an estimated population of 21,000 individuals

This project will deliver a comprehensive approach to reducing sexual violence by primarily working with WHSD youth and continued work in the community to the parents and community members of the district. Prevention work will be done on multiple levels including evidence- and research-based programming to youth in the school district through afterschool programs, working with parents, male and female athletes, trainings of professions within the school district and systems in the feeder municipalities.

Programs to students will be done through classroom presentations, after-school programming, small group work with male and female athletes, and community work with parents and caregivers. Programs will focus on social norms to increase bystander intervention skills, awareness of trauma focused services available to victims and their families and increase and identify resiliency factors in students.

Act 44 of 2018 created a School Safety and Security Fund for the purposes of providing funding to school districts for school safety and security concerns and addressing community violence. \$60 million was put into the fund with \$7.5 million for community anti-violence programs and the remaining 52.5 million for school safety.

End of Document

Stand Up Men kick off new campaign

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Body

Drivers honk while pedestrians wave and shout thank you at more than dozen Stand Up Men who make an appearance every Friday from noon-1 p.m. at the courthouse lawn, spreading the message to stop domestic violence and sexual assault. These well-known men are launching a new project.

"Our campaign goal is to raise \$45,000 to expand community and school outreach," Stand Up Men's Larry Greene said.

The Stand Up Men formed nearly four years ago to support SAFE San Juans' goal of reducing domestic violence and sexual assault in the county, and have become prominent figures in the community. Since its inception approximately five years ago, the group has grown from just a handful to more than 20 active members who provide examples of positive male role models. They have assisted survivors of abuse move into safe houses, inspired young men and have made a presence at the courthouse each Friday to remind the community that domestic abuse does happen in the islands.

"These men are amazing: they have never missed a Friday, even in the snow," said Kim Bryan, director of SAFE San Juans, a local nonprofit with the mission to, prevent and eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault through helping victims, educating the community, facilitating awareness and encouraging cultural and social change. Statistics show that across the United States, one in three women and one in six men will experience a form of sexual violence in their lifetime, according to SAFE San Juan's documents.

Under this new project, major donors will now contribute to just this one campaign rather than individual events like the SAFE on the Rock 5K run, or the spring fashion show. According to Courtney Smith, SAFE San Juans legal advocate and programs manager, existing fundraising events will still occur, and contributors will still have name recognition at the event.

Now, however, the money will be under one umbrella.

Greene explained that the funds would go toward a variety of outreach programs like working with businesses to provide those interested with information about what abuse looks like and what can be done once spotted.

"For example, we know we have sex trafficking on the island," Bryan said. "We know because we have worked with survivors.

With help from the new campaign, we would work with businesses and schools to educate them to recognize the signs."

Smith added that in previous years, SAFE San Juans worked with the athletic department in the schools, partnering with national domestic violence nonprofit Future's Without Violence, to incorporate programs like "**Coaching Boys into Men**," which trains and motivates high school coaches to teach young male athletes healthy relationship skills and that violence never equals strength. For the girls basketball team, according to Smith SAFE San Juans used the program "Athletes as Leaders" to empower young women to take an active role in promoting healthy relationships and ending sexual violence.

With additional funding, SAFE plans on expanding similar prevention and outreach projects.

Sixty percent of money raised will go toward education in county schools, 20 percent will fund education and collaborative efforts with community professionals, and the remaining 20 percent would provide multiple community awareness and prevention education projects for adults, according to SAFE San Juans.

"Prevention is so important because it helps if you catch problems early on. The whole community will be healthier," Greene said.

For info, visit safesj.org.

[Updated Title IX Policy Expands Initiatives in IPS Middle and High Schools](#)

Targeted News Service

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Body

Indianapolis Public Schools issued the following information:

Last week, Indianapolis Public Schools amended its Title IX policy to address sexual discrimination, harassment and teen dating abuse. The amendments were brought to the district by Maria De Leon, a 2018 graduate of Crispus Attucks High School.

When I first met Maria during her freshman year, there was no doubt this hard-working, determined student exhibited natural leadership qualities. She is the kind of student who leads by example. She empowers her peers to find confidence in their own voice.

I had lunch with Maria over fall break to learn about the policy proposal and her hopes for its implementation.

Early on in high school, Maria became involved in Crispus Attucks' No More Club. She learned about teen dating violence and unhealthy relationships. Administrators and peers shared personal stories, and the club worked with the Domestic Violence Network to provide additional learning experiences.

"I didn't even know these were issues anyone could experience until I started becoming more aware" she said.

Maria began noticing those issues in her own environments. She observed many unhealthy relationships in her school, yet no one knew how to address it. The youth program director for the Domestic Violence Network, Lindsay Stawick, invited Maria to become more involved, and she worked to raise awareness about teen dating abuse.

As Maria started her senior year, she wanted to do more. She wanted to take action.

"I was about to graduate. I wanted to make sure I left something behind," said Maria. "I wasn't sure if anyone at our school was as passionate about the issue as I was." Maria talked to Stawick about an action piece. Stawick directed Maria to look into policies to address the issue.

During her senior year, Maria sat on the IPS Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, where she presented research and recent studies on teen dating violence and sexual harassment in schools to Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee. This led to a collaboration between Maria, Lindsay and IPS district representatives to find resources to develop a policy that could be implemented in schools.

"I wanted the policy to enable students to educate their own peers and become empowered to speak out and trust the adults within their high school and middle school."

She didn't just want to educate them about unhealthy relationships and what teen dating violence was, but to also make them aware of their rights under an updated Title IX policy.

The updated policy includes initiatives to address teen dating abuse in both high schools and middle schools, including ways to report anonymously on school websites. The policy creates an appointed Teen Dating Abuse Advocate for all middle and high schools who serves as the primary resource for students experiencing teen dating abuse. The advocate will additionally share literature within middle and high schools from the Domestic Violence Network.

As part of this initiative, Harshman Middle School is piloting a program called Youth Cat (Youth Cognitive Accountability) in the 2018-19 school year. The program uses metacognitive activities to improve moral reasoning and develop accountability for choice and actions. Participating students will be referred to the program in an attempt to correct wrong patterns of behavior and belief systems.

Another program under the new Title IX policy initiative is a partnership with **Coaching Boys Into Men**, a "prevention program that trains and motivates high school coaches to teach their young male athletes healthy relationship skills and that violence never equals strength." Throughout the season, coaches will lead players through weekly activities that address themes such as personal responsibility and relationship abuse.

I asked Maria about her hopes for the policy's implementation.

"I want the district to actually promote it and share it. I don't want it to be just another set of guidelines in the handbook."

Maria exercised leadership that was inspirational and transformative, by wanting to empower individuals. Now in her freshman year at Butler University, Maria hopes to continue to be an agent of change within her community.

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