

Jane Stapleton
Executive Director of Practice
Prevention Innovations Research Center
(603) 862-2194
Jane.stapleton@unh.edu

For immediate release:

Prevention Innovations Research Center Offers Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education When Purchasing Products and Programs for Campus Sexual Violence Prevention Efforts

Durham, New Hampshire – November 9, 2016

Today, Prevention Innovations Research Center (the Center) at the University of New Hampshire in Durham released a white paper entitled, “Choosing Prevention Products: Questions to Ask When Considering Sexual and Relationship Violence and Stalking Prevention Products.” The white paper offers guidance to colleges and universities on how to assess products advertised as effective in preventing campus sexual interpersonal violence.

According to Jane Stapleton, a co-author of the paper and executive director of the Center, the white paper provides questions that college leaders can ask as they consider different prevention products and assess whether they will effectively meet the needs of their campus communities. Stapleton explained, “Over the past several years, there has been a proliferation of vendors and consultants offering programs and products to prevent sexual assault on college campuses. Our researchers and practitioners have been concerned that these products are advertised as effective prevention programs or tools, while vendors present no verification of those claims. Few of them appear to have been evaluated and do not provide the evaluation or research documentation that could substantiate the assertions that they are effective products.”

New federal regulations, introduced in 2014, require colleges and universities to establish campus sexual assault prevention and awareness programs. Co-author LB Klein, a PhD student in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Social Work and a lead trainer and curriculum development specialist for the Center’s Bringing in the Bystander® In-Person Prevention Program (BITB), offered, “In my own experience as a campus gender-based violence prevention professional, we were barraged with promotional materials from companies selling a range of programs and products that

For more information, contact:

prevention.innovations@unh.edu | 1-603-862-5023
www.coli.unh.edu/prevention-innovations-research-center



**University of
New Hampshire**

came with bold statements about effectiveness. We were inundated with brochures and emails that promoted products with remarkable claims, but there was rarely evaluation to back them up.”

Andrew Rizzo, a co-author who is a UNH doctoral student in psychology and a former campus prevention professional, added, “Campus professionals are accountable for adopting effective programs to prevent and respond to violence and keep their students safe. Choosing the right products is daunting when there is so little information from product developers, consultants and vendors.”

Klein noted, “In addition to our own experiences on campuses, participants at BITB trainings and campus advocates and administrators around the country are asking how they can determine what products are right for their schools and what products actually work.”

“From our collective expertise of working in college environments on sexual and relationship violence and stalking prevention, with other campus professionals from around the country and with researchers at the Center, we created a list of questions for schools to consider when purchasing prevention products,” added Stapleton.

“We hope this white paper will assist professionals at institutions of higher education,” said Klein. “The questions that we have posed in the white paper may be helpful to student affairs and other college administrators when considering the purchase of products to supplement their comprehensive campus sexual violence prevention efforts.”

###

Prevention Innovations Research Center

Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC) is internationally recognized for its collaborative research and community engagement focusing on sexual and relationship violence and stalking prevention and response. Prevention Innovations Research Center conducts scholarly, cutting-edge research that informs policy and practice and convenes practitioners and researchers to develop strategies for evidence-based, innovative approaches to violence prevention. In addition, PIRC’s team of researchers and practitioners provide training for university, military and community practitioners, mentor students, support community-based practitioners, and advise institutions. Prevention Innovations Research Center is located on the campus of the University of New Hampshire in Durham. For more information about the Prevention Innovations Research Center or about peer-reviewed resources, *please visit our website:* <http://cola.unh.edu/prevention-innovations-research-center/peer-reviewed-publications>.

For more information, contact:

prevention.innovations@unh.edu | 1-603-862-5023
www.cola.unh.edu/prevention-innovations-research-center

