

PEER HIV EDUCATOR TRAINING

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- * COMMUNICATION
- * SAFER SEX
- * IV DRUG USE

HEP 408 (1 credit)

Meetings will be held each Wednesday in April. Obtaining credit will require a written paper or review.

WHEN: April 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th

TIME: 4:00p.m.-6:20p.m.

WHERE: Student Health Center, RM 21 in the medical library

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Women's Center to add programs

Academic support group created

By Ann Ziegler
Emerald Contributor

The ASUO Women's Center plans to enhance existing programs and add new services this spring as a result of a fall term survey sponsored by Women In Transition.

University students Holly Frame and Amie Marshall surveyed 143 women for the Women's Center program to discover University women's needs.

An overwhelming number of respondents to the survey, which targeted 18- to 22-year-old women, cited academic pressure as their most pressing concern at the University, followed by self-defense and rape, Marshall said.

In response, the Women's Center will offer an academic support group as one of three new programs this spring. Other new programs include a lesbian support group and additional women's general support groups to ease demand on the three existing general support groups.

To respond to women's protection needs on and around campus, the Women's Center is working with the Office of Public Safety to cover marches and candlelight vigils on campus and to improve on-campus

lighting, said Holly Stegner, WIT co-director.

Because the University does not offer self-defense instruction, Stegner said the Women's Center refers students to other sources in the community. She said the Women's Center hopes to have instructor Nadia Telsey from Amazon Kung Fu studio facilitate a self-defense program this fall.

Stegner and her counterpart, Ruth Songer-Johnson, the other co-director for WIT, are also planning a new orientation/reception program for women considering a transfer to the University.

The program will target students from five community colleges in northwestern Oregon. The Women's Center is working in conjunction with the YWCA, which is sponsoring a peer mentor program to help women persevere through the frustrating obstacles new and transfer students encounter.

Speakers will be invited to talk about financial aid, housing, counseling and other student concerns as part of the orientation/reception program. It will also include information packets, tours of Eugene and discounted motel accommodations.

Songer-Jensen said this annu-

al program may help women make the decision that the University is more supportive of women than other universities.

The orientation/reception program's anticipated debut is May 11 and 12. Songer-Jensen said expectations for participation are low this year, but she hopes the program will grow and be supported by the dean of students in the future.

The Women's Center's awareness of needs is its first step to planning how to meet those needs. Songer-Jensen said several free-floating programs were incorporated under the Women's Center umbrella of programs two years ago.

Marshall and Frame distributed the surveys fall term in women's studies and introductory sociology classes, dormitories and sororities, the Women's Health Center, the Counseling Center and the Women's Center hoping to reveal the needs of younger women.

"The Women's Center is interested in being able to address the needs of women of all ages," Songer-Jensen said.

Stegner said that of about 17,800 students at the University, 6,852 are non-traditional. "Women in transition" refers to the non-traditional, generally older-than-average female student with special emotional, medical and financial needs. Many are single parents.

The Women's Center currently offers support groups for women 35 and older, a group for women experiencing confusion about sexual identity, a graduate women's support group and a group that discusses post-graduation concerns.

Other groups facilitated by the Women's Center are a life choices group to discuss pregnancy termination, a non-secular spirituality group, a mother-daughter support group, a support group for architecture and allied arts students, and a group to help women through the "empty nest syndrome," a depression suffered by some women when their children grow and leave home behind.

The Women's Center also offers day hikes to get away from daily stress through its Outdoor Adventure Program on every first and third weekend of the month.



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