

Womenspace receives grant to expand services for victims

■ CAMPAIGN: The group hopes to decrease the epidemic of violence by promoting awareness

By Jennifer Schmitt
Community Editor

Womenspace and seven other members of the Lane County Domestic Violence Council received a three-year grant of \$2.3 million to expand services for victims of domestic violence.

The grant was awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and is geared toward expanding services for victims of domestic violence and increasing community aware-

ness.

"The overall goal is to make a huge difference in the epidemic of domestic violence in the community," said Evelyn Anderton, Womenspace executive director. "October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is a great month to get a grant like this. With this grant, we will be able to increase the awareness of domestic violence all year round and not just in October."

Funds from the grant will be distributed to eight organizations that are part of the Lane County Domestic Violence Council.

"We will all be working so that whatever services the women

need, they can get," Anderton said. "We get to work more cohesively through the council to help these women."

The Lane County Domestic Violence Council is a coalition of survivors, service providers and agency representatives focused on eliminating domestic violence in the community. The council was founded in 1993 and has four committees that focus on law enforcement, treatment for batterers, prosecution and incarceration in domestic violence cases, restraining orders and family law matters and education programs on domestic violence.

Approximately \$80,000 will be

allotted to a media campaign to increase awareness of the domestic violence problem, Anderton said.

"We are hoping our media campaign will have the type of impact that the Mothers Against Drunk Driving campaign has had on public opinion about drunk driving," she said. "When I was in college, drunk driving was OK, now it isn't."

"We are hoping to have the same impact on domestic violence."

The grant does not cover operating costs for the organizations, Anderton said.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

- **SACRED HEART MEDICAL CENTER:** Domestic violence screening will be expanded
- **VICTIMS SERVICES PROGRAM:** Support during prosecution will be offered for victims
- **SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES:** Increased support for sexually abused women will be added
- **SUISLAW AREA WOMEN'S CENTER:** Shelters and crisis-line services will be increased

Virtual university developed on Web

■ INTERNET: Students' location might no longer be a factor in earning a degree

By Ben Kwasney
Higher Education Reporter

The ability to earn a college degree without ever sitting in a classroom or meeting face-to-face with an instructor is entering higher education's future.

A virtual university, designed to offer students courses through World Wide Web technology, plans to operate by the summer of 1997, said two governors, who are proposing such a plan.

Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt and Colorado Gov. Roy Romer both said they are concerned with the ability of higher education to meet increasing demands.

The proposed Western Governors University will emphasize learning and competency, rather than accreditation of institutions and teachers. But accreditation is still a goal because the university plans to grant degrees, said Leavitt and Romer.

Carl Hosticka, University associate vice president for statewide

educational services, said there are some advantages and disadvantages to the WGU virtual university.

"The main advantage of a virtual university from a student's point of view is the flexibility of time and location," Hosticka said. "The main drawback is lack of face-to-face contact with peers and professors."

Some educators are concerned about student self-discipline and distractions, Hosticka said.

The WGU said the virtual university would expose students to courses offered through various institutions. This would allow students to work at their own pace and in their own choice of setting.

Oregon's role in the virtual university has been marginal to this point, Hosticka said.

However, Gov. John Kitzhaber did sign a memorandum of understanding with the rest of the Western governors, excluding California. Oregon has pledged \$100,000 to WGU.

Hosticka said the state sees the virtual university as a major advantage because more students

can be educated without building more classrooms or dormitories.

However, enrollment for students may not be cheaper than the traditional campus education, Hosticka said, because developing courses to work on the web and paying staff to interact with students through electronic communication can be costly.

The financial aid situation for the virtual university is not clear.

"It's problematic at this point," said Jim Buch, University associate vice president for student academic affairs.

He said an institution must be accredited regionally or federally, which WGU still needs to be before students can seek financial assistance.

Hosticka said predicting future traditional university enrollment changes caused by the virtual university will be difficult. Much of what students learn at colleges comes through interactions with professors and students outside the formal classroom, and students may choose that interaction over the expediency of a virtual university.

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