

BE THE POWER OF ONE

Building a Safe Community



The Power of
ONE
Direct. Distract. Delegate. Delay.

1st Edition, March 2019

MTSU Receives OVW CAMPUS Grant

In the fall of 2018, MTSU received a \$300,000 Campus Grant from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) within the US Department of Justice. Titled the Power of ONE Prevention Grant, this funding is dedicated to addressing issues of gender-based violence on campus, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Through funding provided from the grant, MTSU has created a Campus Comprehensive Response Team (CCRT) that works to ensure an effective, comprehensive campus response to address gender-based violence on campus. The CCRT is made up of subcommittees of faculty and staff addressing the following issues: Comprehensive Prevention, Student Conduct, Law Enforcement, Victim Services, and Engaging Men. A newly formed student group, the Power of ONE Student Committee, also works with the full-time OVW grant coordinator and student assistant to promote prevention education and awareness of resources across campus.



Above: Members of the MTSU CCRT attend the OVW training hosted by the Department of Justice for campus grantees in fall of 2018. Pictured are Kelly Hill (Power of ONE OVW grant coordinator), Amy Dean (MTSU Sexual Assault Advocate), Barbara Scales (Director of the June Anderson Center for Women & Nontraditional Students and Principle Investigator for the Power of ONE OVW grant), and Karen Lampert (Executive Director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center).

Upcoming Events

March 18 5:30-7:00pm	CKNB 119	Circles of Sexuality
March 19 3:00-4:00pm	STU 201	Fuzzy, Messy, Icky: The Edges of Consent in Biblical Rape Narratives & Culture
March 19 6:00-8:30pm	LRC 221	Anita: Speaking Truth to Power
March 20 7:00-8:30pm	BAS S305	Power of ONE Bystander Intervention Training
April 1-5	Across Campus	What Were You Wearing?
April 8-12	Library Atrium	The Clothes Line Project
April 16 5:30-7:30pm	STU	Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

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CCRT Corner: Meet the MTSU Power of ONE Prevention Grant Coordinator

In each edition of our newsletter, we will highlight a member or subcommittee of our CCRT. This month, we highlight Kelly Hill, who was hired in the fall of 2018 as the Power of ONE prevention grant coordinator on campus. Her office is located within the MTSU June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students at Middle Tennessee State University. Here are the questions we asked her:

What is the role of your position at MTSU?

As the Power of ONE Prevention Grant Coordinator, I am responsible for planning and implementing gender-based violence prevention programs on campus. Topics covered during these programs include consent, bystander intervention, sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence.

I also coordinate the CCRT, which is a team of faculty and staff including the campus sexual assault victim advocate, counseling services, MTSU law enforcement, student conduct, Title IX, and the local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center. Together, we are working to create an effective, comprehensive campus response to address gender-based violence on campus.

What experience do you have working in the field of gender-based violence and student affairs?

Prior to coming to MTSU, I worked as a public health educator and victim services advocate in Ohio. I founded two community organizations with the goal of building community and increasing civic engagement among Asian American and Asian immigrant women in Nashville and in Ohio. While I was in graduate school, I worked at the Humphrey Fellowship Program and Black Cultural Center at Vanderbilt University, and the Anna Howard Shaw Women's Center at Boston University School of Theology. I have worked at the Tennessee State Legislature as a research analyst on local education policy issues.

What are you most excited about in your new position?

I'm excited about the opportunity to get to know students, faculty, and staff at MTSU, and developing creative ways about educating about gender-based violence on campus. MTSU has done a really great job of providing mandatory bystander intervention trainings to student athletes and students involved with Greek life. My goal is to create relatable and accessible programs and resources for students that haven't yet been reached – this includes students of color, international students, students with disabilities, nontraditional students, student veterans – to ensure that all students at MTSU are served by our office.



*Kelly Hill, Power of ONE
Prevention/ OVW Grant
Coordinator*

**When you see a potentially unsafe situation...
Use one of the 4 D's to Intervene.**



Direct. Step in and address the situation directly. Example: "That's not cool. Please stop." or "Hey, leave them alone."

Distract. Create a distraction to suppress the situation. Example: "Hey, aren't you in my Spanish class?"

Delegate. Find someone who can help you intervene. Example: You could contact an R.A., a campus police officer, or a faculty or staff member.

Delay. It may be best to delay any action for a few minutes. Example: If you are in a group, you could delay your intervention by asking the person to use the restroom with you.

BE THE POWER OF ONE!

On February 12th, Power of ONE hosted a screening and panel discussion of the documentary film, “The Rape of Recy Taylor” as part of Black History Month. Over 135 students, teachers, and community members attended the event. The film, about a black woman who was raped by six white men in 1944, highlighted the activism of Black women such as Recy Taylor and Rosa Parks against gender-based violence during the civil rights movement. The following reflections were written by students who attended this event. .

“No matter the circumstance.... We can Overcome.”

Sheyenne Thomas, Vice President, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Mu Theta Chapter

The Rape of Recy Taylor was an extremely frustrating yet empowering documentary. Throughout history black men and women have been treated less than and looked over simply because of the color of our skin. It did not surprise me that this documentary highlighted not only the disregard for the life and well-being of others, but also the strength that the African American community displayed during this time period.

When this documentary first started, I felt rage. Rage because this horrific thing happened to Recy Taylor and people in the community were willing to overlook it simple because she was a black woman. I also felt this emotion because the African American community had to build up her moral character in order for the victim to be perceived as more believable, dismissing the fact that she was human and no matter who she was or her history, rape should never happen to anyone.

As the movie continued, I began to feel empowered. Recy Taylor did not let the fear of what the community said they would do to her, stop her from speaking up. Fear did not stop the black community as a whole from making this crime of gender-based violence public. Empowerment came in because the film showed me that the people who have come before me have always been fighters for justice and have been resilient that no matter the circumstance, we can overcome.

I am a product of my history and I will always honor those who came before me by not letting fear control me, always using my voice to empower other black women and men, standing up against gender-based violence by being an active bystander, and overcoming any obstacle that comes in my way like Recy Taylor and the many others who stood along her during her time of need.



“The Time is NOW.... Let’s get up and Make a Difference.”

Mahlet Akile, Event Planner, African Student Organization

My mind wandered everywhere within the duration of the screening of *The Rape of Recy Taylor*. Listening to the story wounded me for so many reasons.

Recy Taylor was raped in 1944 and this movie just came out in 2018. It took us 74 years! 74 years to tell a story that should have been told the day it had occurred. She is not first nor the only woman to ever be raped and never got justice; unfortunately, there are many more and there will be many more. I struggled to finish watching the movie, because it just kept getting me angrier and angrier, not just at the world but myself too. The “mountains” I seem to think to face every day do not seem that big anymore.

For me, this film was a revelation - a revelation of what is happening in the world right now: not in 1944, but in 2019. There are more stories out now, but the real problem is still overshadowed. The million-dollar question today is “which celebrity did what today?” instead of “Is the woman okay?” Recy Taylor was not a celebrity so even if what happened to her happened today, which it does, there would be no change. That is the frightening reality.

We see a lot on TV these days. Often, the most we do is frown up on what happened for a second and go on with our day. That’s not how I want to live my life anymore. I want to research and learn ways to raise awareness. I need to because if I don’t who will? Tomorrow it could happen to our sister, our friend, our daughter. It should not need to get personal for us to get involved.

The time is NOW. Let’s get up and make a difference. We can start by asking someone if they are okay or if they need help. Not knowing whether people will believe their story or stand with them is one of the reasons why these women do not come out. They may already feel shame for something they had no control over so let us not add more on their plate and stand alongside with them.



“Discussions about toxic masculinity in campus culture are vital”

Sloan Carver, Student Leader, Power of ONE Student Committee

On February 21st, I had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Dr. Natalie Hoskins, Assistant Professor for the Department of Communication Studies. I attended the presentation due to my interest in addressing gender-based violence, and my involvement with the MTSU Power of ONE Student Committee. The presentation was incredibly informative and insightful. Dr. Hoskins discussed her research on how a lack of social support can affect men. Her research series found many connections between histories of emotional, physical, psychological abuse in childhood among perpetrators of intimate partner violence (IPV).



One commonality among these perpetrators of IPV were that they were taught to be extremely self-reliant. Throughout the presentation Dr. Hoskins discussed importance of children feeling like they have someone to talk to about their thoughts and feelings. If children feel they are all alone in the world and have no one to talk to this can foster unhealthy habits of suppressing emotions and refusing to ask for help.

Another similarity the men shared was that their parental figures had taught them that showing empathy or emotions, other than anger, was equated to being “weak”. The men in her study were often left to feed and take care of themselves primarily so being seen as “weak” wasn’t seen an option. Possibly as a result these men suppressed their emotions when they were children in order to project a false appearance of maturity and confidence. Caring for themselves only promoted the men’s belief that they were all alone in this world and had no one to count on but themselves.

This presentation reinforced my belief that it is especially important for men to feel like they have a place to share their thoughts and feelings. Advocating for discussions about toxic masculinity in campus culture is vital to break down the stigma of men openly expressing their emotions. As a member of the MTSU Power of ONE committee I want to use the information I gained from this lecture to further promote conversations about emotions and fostering a supportive environment on campus for students. As a result of cultivating a more encouraging environment on campus, I hope this will form new nurturing relationships between students.

Power of ONE Student Organization of the Month

Each month, Power of ONE will be selecting a student organization that has demonstrated commitment to raising awareness of gender-based violence and for actively promoting a culture of bystander intervention.

This month, the Somali Student Association is student organization of the month. Over 50 Somali Student Association members attended the screening and panel discussion for the film, *The Rape of Recy Taylor* on February 12. The organization also provided delicious traditional Somali food at this event.

The Somali Student Association invites the entire campus to experience their culture at their upcoming Somali Night event on Friday, April 19 from 7pm to midnight at the Global Mall at The Crossing.

THE SOMALI STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS SOMALI NIGHT 2019 *Habeenka Dhaqanka*

Friday April 19th, 2019
Global Mall at Crossing
Doors Open: 6PM Event Time: 7-12AM
Tickets
MTSU Students/Faculty: Free (w/ID)
General Public: Free Admission (RSVP Required)
Featuring
Somali Museum Dance Troupe
International Somali Professional
Guest Speaker: Dr. Osman Ali
Director of Somali Student Association

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Power of ONE in PHOTOS



Top Left: Student leaders of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and NAACP, staff of the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, and panelists Dr. Latoya Eaves, Dr. Michelle Stevens, Dr. Barbara Turnage gather after the screening and discussion of the film, *The Rape of Recy Taylor*. **Top Right:** Kelly Hill (Power of ONE OVW grant coordinator), Dr. Barbara Turnage (MTSU professor of social work), and Vincent Black (MTSU Health Educator) facilitate a conversation on healthy relationships, sexual health, and consent at the Three D's Before the Deed event hosted by Ladies for a Change. **Bottom Left:** Student leaders in the Asian Student Association and the Asian Language Partnership gather after the screening and discussion about the film, *Seeking Asian Female*. **Bottom Right:** Power of ONE OVW grant coordinator Kelly Hill with Barbara Scales, June Anderson Center Director and Principle Investigator for the Power of ONE OVW campus grant, and Brianna Guydon, OVW student grant assistant.

Highlight Videos



[YouTube: Highlights from the The Rape of Recy Taylor film screening & panel discussion](#)

[SIDELINES: 'The Rape of Recy Taylor' Film Screening Leaves Students Feeling Empowered to Speak Up](#)



[YouTube: Highlights from the Seeking Asian Female community discussion](#)

[SIDELINES: 'Seeking Asian Female' Documentary screening opens conversation about UnHealthy Relationships, Cultural Differences](#)



ANITA: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

March 19 | 6:00 – 8:30pm | LRC 221

Film Screening & Community Discussion

Discussion Panelists:



**Rhiana
Anthony**

Conjure
Community
Healing Arts



**Dr. Magaela
Bethune**

MTSU
Africana
Studies



**Joshua
Crutchfield**

Black Lives
Matter-
Nashville



**Dr. Latoya
Eaves**

MTSU Global
Studies &
Human
Geography



**Dr. Barbara
Turnage**

MTSU
Social Work
(co-moderator)



Sondra Wade

MTSU
Assistant
University
Counsel

Sponsored by:

MTSU National Women's History Month Committee, June Anderson Center for Women & Nontraditional Students, Power of ONE , Alpha Kappa Alpha, Phi Delta Theta, MT Lambda, Delta Sigma Theta, Melanated March, National Association of Black Social Workers , African Student Organization, SWEET Melanin, Ladies for a Change, NAACP, Somali Student Association, Caribbean Student Association, Cadets Against Sexual Harassment, Women in Film



Circles of Sexuality

Monday, March 18
5:30 – 7:00pm
CKNB (Nursing) Rm 119

Come join MT Lambda and the June Anderson Center in a conversation about relationships, sexuality, body image, and consent!

We will learn about the 5 the *Circles of Sexuality* model, created by Dennis Dailey, Ph.D. (1981) which includes including sexual identity, sensuality, intimacy, health and reproduction, & power and sexualization. We will then have an open discussion about S-E-X!



Co-facilitated by licensed counselor, Gert Comfrey

Gert Comfrey (aka Sarah Grove, MTS, LMFT) does healing labor and facilitation at the intersection of psychotherapy, spiritual care, and anti-oppression activism. They are deeply committed to liberation movements, to consciousness-raising, power-generating practices, and to the healing spirit of abolition. These commitments are present in Gert's work as a licensed therapist, where they serve individuals, couples, and families in Nashville, TN. Gert offers trainings to health care practitioners, therapy interns, and students about best practices when working with queer folx. They also spend time in radical spaces exploring the ways we can organize well, bringing our whole selves to the movement. They are passionate about community care, community-based decision-making processes, and community visioning.



Fuzzy, Messy, Icky: The Edges of Consent in Biblical Rape Narratives and Rape Culture

Tuesday, March 19 | 3PM | STU Parliamentary Room 201

Taking as a starting point the fuzzy/messy/icky nature of sexual violence, this talk argues for a new feminist approach to reading stories in the Bible, and for responding to rape culture more broadly.

The Power of ONE student committee will be tabling at this event.



Power of ONE

Bystander Intervention Training

March 20 | 7P | BAS S305

A Collaboration w MT Lambda and the June Anderson Center



Student Committee Meeting

March 15 | 2PM | STU 320

New Members Welcome!

QR Code for Digital Access to the Power of ONE Newsletter

<https://mtsu.edu/powerof1/news>



This project is supported by Grant No. 2016-TA-AX-K037 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.