The Violence Against Women Act

Introductory Synopsis
DSC Director of Equity and Inclusion
Lonnie Thompson
4/17/2015
The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- VAWA 2013 reauthorized and improved upon lifesaving services for all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking - including Native women, immigrants, LGBT victims, college students, youth, and public housing residents.
The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

• **Justice on campuses:** College students are among those most vulnerable to dating violence. This adds additional protections for students by requiring schools to implement a recording process for incidences of dating violence, as well as report the findings. In addition, schools would be required to create plans to prevent this violence and educate victims on their rights and resources.
The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- **Justice and safety for LGBT survivors:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of violence experience the same rates of violence as straight individuals. VAWA 2013 prohibits discrimination to ensure that all victims of violence have access to the same services and protection to overcome trauma and find safety.
VAWA Bystander Intervention

• Speaking out against statements, attitudes, or behavior that may perpetuate a culture endorsing violence as acceptable or inevitable
• Identifying and preventing situations that could lead to a sexual assault
• Intervening during high-risk incidents, whether by disruption, distraction, speaking up, or even calling for help so others can step in.
• Supporting others when they are distressed or injured
• Assisting others who respond to unsafe situations
VAWA Notification

Institutions must further provide any students or employees who report being victims of the crimes covered in the law with a written explanation of their rights and options, regardless of where the incidents occurred.