

### DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Advocate Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Misconduct program is to anticipate and respond to the needs of students impacted by stalking, sexual harassment, dating/domestic violence and sexual assault by providing confidential advocacy and support. CARE also works collaboratively with students, faculty and staff to educate the campus about the vital role that each of us has in ending interpersonal violence at UCSB.

### LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon completion of the CARE Connect training program, participants will be able to identify and recognize the signs of an abusive relationship. The learning outcomes assessed as part of the CARE Connect training are based on NASPA's Learning Reconsidered student outcomes. This objective meets the competency of Knowledge Acquisition, Integration and Application.

### CONTEXT

Research indicates that students are most likely to disclose an experience with interpersonal violence to a trusted friend and not to a University official. In order to increase the utilization of campus resources by student survivors, CARE Connect focuses on training students to be able to identify the signs of an abusive relationship, so that they can effectively refer their peers to CARE advocates or other campus resources.

### METHODS

Students who attend the two-hour CARE Connect training are given a pre-test. Upon completion of the training, a post-test is administered to all participants. The pre- and post-test questions are designed to gauge initial knowledge



After attending weeks of CARE Connect workshops, Violence Intervention Prevention (VIP), interns are ready to host their own awareness events as new peer educators.

COURTESY PHOTO

on topics covered in the training, and acquisition of or increase in knowledge (if any), as a result of attending the program. Surveys were administered to participants attending CARE Connect trainings between January and May 2015. The pre- and post-tests include 10 questions utilizing a Likert Scale.

### RESULTS

Of the 182 students who attended the training between January and May 2015, 173 students completed the pre- and post-tests. The pre-test data reflect that prior to the training 44% of participants agreed that they could recognize the signs of an abusive relationship. Upon completion

of the CARE Connect training, 96% of students agreed that they could recognize the signs of an abusive relationship. The content of the training focuses on identifying several signs of abusive relationships, including unhealthy relationships that involve humiliation, control, isolation from friends and family, as well as the cycle of abuse. Additional signs of abusive relationships covered in the training are physical, sexual, verbal, and cyber abuse and stalking.

### ANALYSIS & IMPLICATIONS

Based on the final data, the curriculum for CARE Connect training effectively teaches participants to recognize signs of an abusive relationship. A consideration for future inquiry would be to determine if initial knowledge of abusive relationships is impacted by participation in other campus education programs, such as Gaucho FYI or Haven. If so, then the CARE Connect training curriculum can be changed to cover more advanced topics. Another area for further exploration will be to determine whether the increased knowledge about signs of abusive relationships will result in an increased likelihood of intervening if students see abuse happening in their communities.

