

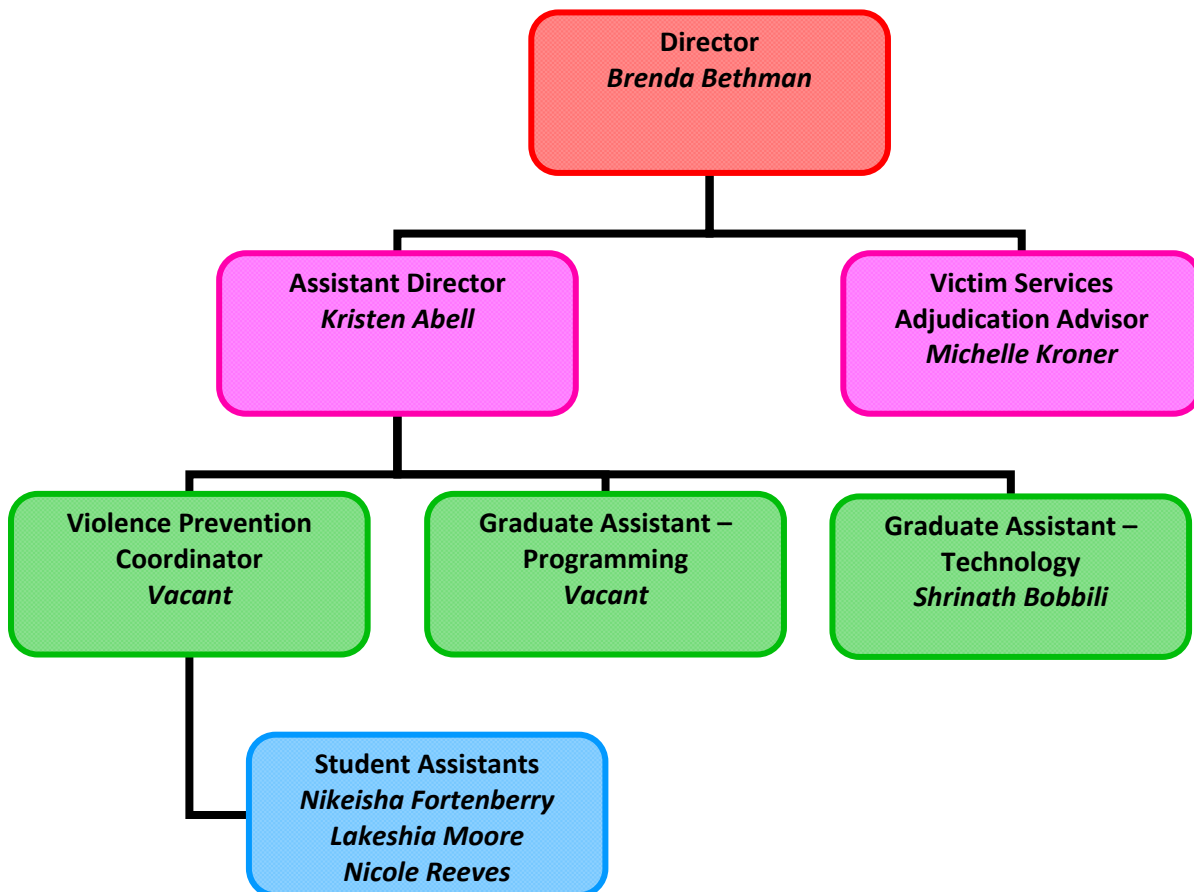


**Annual Report to the Chancellor
Women's Center
University of Missouri-Kansas City
June 2, 2009**

Chancellor Morton, on behalf of Kristin Webster, Chair of the Chancellor's Advisory Board to the Women's Center, it is my pleasure to summarize the activities of the Women's Center and the role of the Chancellor's Advisory Board to the Women's Center. Completing its 38th year serving students, staff, faculty, and the Kansas City community, the Women's Center and your Advisory Board have witnessed a year of exciting programming and collaboration both within the university and with the Kansas City Community. I will briefly summarize the accomplishments of the Women's Center in 2008 – 09 and will then give an update on our upcoming planning process and focus for the coming year.

Staffing

With the support of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and funding from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, the Women's Center is able to maintain a strong staff of three full-time, one part-time, and seven student staff. Below is an organizational chart showing our current staff members, many of whom are with us this morning:



Violence Prevention and Response Project

First funded in September 2005, the Women's Center received a continuation grant for the Violence Prevention and Response (VPR) Project in September 2007 from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women in the amount of \$286,647. Efforts to meet the goals outlined in this grant are well on their way.

In collaboration with the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), the VPR project scheduled a system-wide training on sexual assault policies and judicial procedures at the end of June 2008. In September 2008, the Violence Prevention and Response Project implemented a sexual assault education program for all incoming first-year and transfer degree-seeking students. Students were able to participate in either a live session or an online training course through Blackboard. Approximately 65% of the targeted students (886 out of 1,365) completed the training. Efforts are currently being made to expand participation for the 2009 – 2010 school year, including opening the Blackboard course to first-time enrolling students immediately following their orientation. Since August 2008, we have provided training and education to an additional 833 students, faculty and staff. We also provided educational programming on sexual violence and have held 10 events, with a total of 663 attendees, 466 of whom are current UMKC students.

In addition to the educational programming provided by the VPR Project, we have collaborated with Human Resources to offer training to staff through their online training schedule, are currently working on a guide on responding to victims/survivors for the University, and served victims/survivors throughout the year. With the addition of a part-time Victim Services Adjudication Advisor last spring, the VPR Project has been able to increase the level of support provided to victims/survivors of sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence. In addition to providing general referrals to community agencies, the VSAA has served as an advocate for students going through the campus judicial process or reporting to the campus police department. From July 2008 through May 2009, the VSAA worked on 17 cases, almost double the number (8) that the Women's Center saw from July 2007 through June 2008.

Below is a summary of the cases handled by the VSAA:

- Sexual assault: 1
- Dating/domestic violence: 11
- Stalking: 2
- Referrals only: 3

- Number of victims who reported the incident to law enforcement: 2
- Number of cases charged: 0
- Number of offenses resulting in UMKC disciplinary/judicial board action: 3
- Judicial outcome of above cases: reprimand; suspension from campus.

Effective June 8, 2009, the VSAA will be a full-time position, and Michelle Kroner will also take on training duties. We will reduce the Violence Prevention Coordinator position to half-time and the person we hire will coordinate VPR programming (Walk a Mile, V-Day, etc.). These changes will allow us to continue to improve services available to victims/survivors at UMKC.

Programs and Events

The Women's Center hosted eleven events in the Fall 2008 semester and eighteen in Spring 2009. Attendance at all events totaled 2,342 people, of whom 1,031 were students. Programming highlights included:

- In August 2008, we hosted the first Women's Collaborative Reception for community organizations working to improve the lives of women and girls. 58 people representing 19 organizations attended
- In September, we hosted the second annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event. This event asks men to walk a mile in women's high-heeled shoes. Walking in women's shoes helps men better understand and appreciate women's experiences, thus changing perspectives, helping improve gender relationships and decreasing the potential for violence. This event not only raised awareness and funds for the Violence Prevention and Response Project, but also brought the Center good publicity, helping to raise our profile.
- In November, the Center hosted a panel on intergenerational feminism honoring Ruth Margolin, former director of the Women's Center. Over 350 students, staff, faculty and community members turned out to hear a panel of four nationally-known feminist writers and activists talk about feminism. This event was held at the Plaza branch of the Kansas City Public Library and inaugurated a new collaboration with the Library, with whom we will host a follow-up panel in August 2009.
- Our benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* and *Any One of Us: Words from Prison* not only delighted audiences for two nights in February, but also raised approximately \$2,700 for organizations that fight violence against women and girls. This year's local beneficiary was the UMKC Violence Prevention and Response Project. We also donated funds to the V-Day national spotlight campaign, Women and Girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Our Take Back the Night Rally and March, held in April, was once again a success with 143 participants.

Publications, Website and Social Media

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Women's Center made great strides in streamlining its publications and providing a more consistent overall look. With the help of UMKC's Creative Services, all major publications featured the same overall design, creating a type of branding for our office. We continued that effort this year, and expanded our efforts into the electronic area as well with our newly-designed website, launched in August 2008.

At last year's meeting, I reported that the Center would spend part of this year looking at developing ways to more effectively utilize electronic communication, and we did so. The Women's Center now has a robust online presence with a new website, a blog, Facebook page, and Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr accounts. These efforts have brought an increase in traffic, with the website averaging 159 visits per week and the blog averaging 30 visits per week (compared to last year's average of 108 for the website alone). We also currently have 189 Twitter followers, 130 Facebook fans, more than 1,000 subscribers to our listserv announcements, and over 100 views of our videos on YouTube. Our blog also provides a safe space for students to discuss women's and gender issues through the comments section.

Planning for the Future

Last year I reported that the Women's Center planned to hold fewer events in 2008-09 and would instead use the staff time freed up to work on assessment. Despite our good intentions, the number of events we held in 2008-09 was only marginally lower than in 2007-08 (29 versus 31), but they were less labor-intensive and did allow for time to develop an assessment plan that will be implemented in the

2009-10 academic year. Additionally, the Advisory Board decided to put our strategic planning process on hold while the University was working on its plan and we will begin working this summer to develop a five-year plan for the Center that supports the mission, vision, and goals put forward in UMKC's strategic plan.

We are also working on two new initiatives for next year that will increase support and co-curricular programming for UMKC's women students:

Starr Women Leaders Program

- The Starr Women Leaders Program will be a new follow-up program to the annual Starr Symposium and will provide mentoring to 9th- or 10th-grade girls in Kansas City, as well as leadership development to female UMKC students. Building on the theme of the 2009 Starr Symposium, the focus of SWLP in the 2009-10 academic year will be on Math, Engineering, Technology, and Science (METS) fields. The girls and UMKC students will be invited to attend an afternoon session with Dr. Mae Jemison during the Starr Symposium on October 1, 2009. Each girl will be paired with a UMKC student who will work with her as an e-mentor over the academic year (October 2009 – May 2010). The mentors and protégées will use Facebook as their primary means of communication. Facebook is a secure social networking website where people can interact with friends by sending messages, as well as set up a personal profile about themselves. Members of the Starr Women Leaders Program will be able to chat with their mentor/ protégée via Facebook, as well as participate in a Facebook group that will be set up and administered by the Women's Center staff. The group will contain discussion topics, announcements, and a network of other females interested in METS fields.
- UMKC students serving as mentors will be invited to participate in the following programs:
 - **Monthly Leadership Development Programs:** Each month, SWLP participants will be invited to participate in leadership workshops and programs. UMKC participants are required to accumulate a minimum number of points throughout the academic year in order to receive a certificate of completion and to be recognized as participants of the program. Points are earned through mentoring activities, participating in leadership and educational sessions, attending social events, etc. Details regarding the points system will be posted soon.
 - **Program Social Events:** SWLP participants also have the opportunity to take part in social events, such as lunches, potlucks and cultural performances. Some events will also offer the opportunity for the girls and the UMKC students to interact in person:
 - a holiday social in December;
 - a campus visit day in March;
 - an end of year reception/recognition ceremony in late April or early May.

Women in Science and Engineering Program

- The Women's Center has been working with the Kansas City chapter of the American Association of University Women and the School of Engineering and Computing dean to put together ideas for a Women in Science and Engineering program. Currently we are developing the ideas outlined below into a proposal that we will send to the deans and chairs of other relevant departments and schools/colleges to solicit their input and recruit students for the program. The mission of the Women in Science and Engineering Program (WISE) will be to foster the personal, academic, and professional development of women graduate students in math, engineering, technology, science and the health sciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In the first year, we expect to offer three programs: graduate women's dinner groups; mentoring and networking events; and a lunch discussion series.

Conclusion

The 2008-09 academic year has been another successful one, as evidenced by the numbers:

- We received \$21,732 in grant funding, gifts, program co-sponsorships, and fundraising/sales, as well as \$2,170 of in-kind donations.
- Our total grant/gift/sponsorship/fundraising income for FY 2009 was \$117,281, which is approximately 40% of the Women's Center annual expenses.
- We reached a total of 8,988 people through the following methods:
 - Attendance at Women's Center and Violence Prevention and Response Programs = 2,342
 - Number reached at Admissions/Recruitment Events (Orientations, Visit Days, African-American/Hispanic Youth Days, etc.) = 3,621
 - Number reached through non-admissions-related Outreach Events = 818
 - Number trained of students, faculty, and staff receiving Violence Prevention Training from the Women's Center = 1,131
 - Office walk-ins = 1,076
- The Women's Center website received 6,697 visits since August 1, 2008, which is an average of 159 hits per week, while the blog received 1,264 visits during the same period, which is an average of 30 visits per week.
- We partnered with close to 50 campus and community departments and organization to provide quality programs and services to the UMKC and Kansas City communities.

Women's Center Collaborations in the 2008-09 Academic Year

UMKC Departments and Organizations

- Activity and Programs Council
- African American History and Culture House
- Alpha Delta Pi Sorority
- Athletics
- Communication Studies
- Counseling, Health, and Testing Center
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol – UMKC chapter
- LGBT Programs
- Mind-Body Connection
- Multicultural Student Affairs
- NAACP – UMKC chapter
- Office of Services for Students with Disabilities
- Parking Operations
- Police Department
- Residential Life
- School of Law
- School of Computing and Engineering
- Student Government Association
- Student Health and Wellness

- Student Life
- Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life
- University Center
- Women's and Gender Studies Program
- Women's Council

Community Organizations

- American Association of University Women
- American Civil Liberties Union chapter
- City in Motion
- Guadalupe Centers, Inc.
- Hope House
- Human Rights Campaign
- Kansas City Anti-Violence Project
- Kansas City Free Clinic
- Kansas City Public Library
- Kingsland Arts and Crafts
- Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)
- Missouri Department of Women's Health and Senior Services
- Newhouse Shelter
- Planned Parenthood
- Rockhurst University Student Life Office
- Rose Brooks Center
- Synergy Services
- Veronica's Voice
- Xikar, Inc.
- YWCA of Greater Kansas City