

Greek Risk Bulletin

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Don't Just Stand By. . .

2016 saw an explosion of interest in Title IX, the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination at universities. The same law that opened the school doors and playing fields to all genders is now working to reduce sexual violence on college campuses. Interest has come from student-led advocacy, the White House, Congress, federal agencies, and has been a cover story of *Time* and other magazines. Our campuses are determined to protect our students from assault and to punish and/or criminally prosecute those who cross the line.

One of the concepts to receive well-deserved attention in the fight against sexual assault is the role of the "bystander." Psychologists long ago noted what they call the "bystander effect." That is – humans will sometimes stand by while something terrible occurs, hoping (or falsely trusting) that someone else will take care of the problem.

Many programs now exist to convert bystanders from an idle "effect" into an active "intervention." These programs can help your members be active interveners to protect your members, your organization, and your guests. Basically, the steps are:

Pay Attention. Are there situations that create hazards for sexual assault or



discrimination?

Consider Your Role.
Is there something you can do to make the situation better and prevent an assault or violence?



Consider the Possibilities and Choose to Act Safely. There are numerous programs which teach effective, and proven, strategies to intervene before harm occurs.

Resources for Title IX and Bystander Intervention

UA Title IX Website

<u>UA Women and Gender</u> <u>Resource Center</u>

UAB Title IX Website

UAB Guide for Victims of Sexual Assault

UAB Women's Counseling
Center

UAH Title IX Website

UAH Student Resources

National Sexual Violence Resource Center