

Women's Resource Center Assessment 2023-24

Location

The Women's Resource Center is located in the University Union, room 2250.

Mission

The WRC builds community and allyship, provides resources and services, and hosts strategic events and programming with a feminist lens to empower students, create self-awareness, cultivate a safer space on campus, uplift and affirm intersectional identities, and promote the power of personal agency.

Vision

The WRC serves as a driving force for promoting women's and gender equity within the campus community and beyond. We achieve this by encompassing the principles of inclusion, collaboration, and leadership into our programming, events, service and space.

Values

Community, allyship, empowerment, feminism, DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion), and openness

Staffing

- Haley Myers Dillon took leadership as the director (MPP Admin I) of the WRC in January 2023.
- SSP IV Coordinator Stephanie Alcala was hired in June 2023 to assist with both WRC and Parents & Families.
- Pam Robertson, a full time staff ASC 1, works as the Women's Health Assistant, and is funded via Student Health and Counseling, but reports to the director.
- The WRC employed 4 student assistants.

Visitors in the WRC and Attendance at WRC-hosted Events

353 students visited the WRC in Fall 2023.

133 students attended events in Fall 2023.

Therefore, the WRC engaged 486 students in Fall 2023.

233 students visited the WRC in Spring 2024.

558 students attended WRC events in Spring 2024.

Therefore, the WRC engaged 791 students in Spring 2024 total.

The total engagement for WRC visits and attendance was 1,277 students for the Fall and Spring semesters.

Resources Distributed

**estimates provided where data exists*

- 500 Pregnancy tests distributed
- 600 Condoms
- 1,000 Feminine Hygiene products
 - Tampons
 - Pads
- 200 Scantron Test Sheets
- 20 Blue books
- 1,500 Packaged Snacks
- Abortion resource guidance
 - On and off campus

Programming & Signature Events

September

- 5 – WRC Open House

October

- 3 – Lunch with a Leader: Pawan Wallace, Associate Director, Financial Aid & Scholarships
- 10-12 – Arts & Crafts: Midterm Brain Breaks: Postcards, Coloring, and Snacks
- 17 – Lunch with a Leader: Nilda Valmores, President, Sacramento Soroptimists
- 18 – Arts & Crafts: Pumpkin Painting with Pals

November

- 15 – Lunch with a Leader: Natalie Andrade, CSUS ASI President
- 21 – Arts & Crafts: SunCatcher Making

December

- 5-6 - Coffee & Cram: coffee, pastries and support for finals studying

February

- 9 – Being a Woman on Campus: What's Your Take? (Hybrid Focus Group)
- 14 – Palentine's Day Craft & Chill
- 26 – Vision Boards
- 29 – Popcorn & Partners: Health Relationships with WEAVE

March – Women’s Herstory Month

- 1-31 – WRC Student Art Exhibit, UU 2nd Floor Gallery Wall: Look in the Mirror: What Will Your Herstory Be?
- 8 – Celebrating Women: A Multicultural Journey – co-sponsored with MCC
- 11 – Women of Influence Awards – co-sponsored event with University Housing
- 12 – Gender Violence Discussion with WEAVE
- 14 – Safety on Campus: Chat with Campus Police
- 25 – WRC AICP Presentation: Discover the Strengths, Shifting Needs, and Concerns of Female-Identified Students
- 26 – Navigating Emotional Eating
- 27 – Speaker Edxie Betts: Feminist / Trans Artist, co-sponsored event with Women’s and Gender Studies
- 28 – Speaker Sally Wagner: Feminist author and activist, and found of the CSUS WRC

April

- 8-22 – Denim Drive for Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- 10-11 – Poster and Sign Making for Take Back the Night
- 12 – Women’s Leadership Summit
- 18 – De-Stress Meditative Activities and Journaling
- 24 – Denim Day and Take Back the Night

May

- 7-8 – Coffee & Cram
- 6-10 – Grad Gifts

June

- 28 – Women’s Leadership Network Mixer

Female-Identified Students Needs Assessment

The WRC distributed a survey campus-wide to our followers and those on our lists and through colleagues in December 2023 and January 2024. The timing was poor because students were engaged with finals, or off campus. We had 46 respondents.

This 15-question survey was designed to:

- 1) ask students what kind of programming and services they want to see from the WRC;
- 2) get a sense of their understanding of women’s health services, including access to birth control, pregnancy tests, and abortion on campus;
- 3) get evidence around female-identified students’ sense of safety on campus during the day and night, in contrast to the anecdotes and reports we hear in the WRC of near-constant fear on campus; and
- 4) understand if female-identified students feel supported by campus in and out of the classroom.

In general, students feel:

1. Respect for Women: Somewhat Satisfied with the level of respect for women and female-identifying individuals on campus.

2. Safety: Somewhat safe walking on campus during the day; unsafe walking on campus at night. Many respondents attributed feeling unsafe on campus at night to poor lighting/ dark areas. Students were able to type in comments as well. Here are some responses from the open question:

"No I don't feel safe on campus at night. I purposefully avoid late classes in fear of walking back to my dorm in the dark. I mostly feel safe during the day because people are around."

"I am always nervous walking around campus alone at night. I have friends who have negative experiences with creepy people on campus and it makes me on high alert. Especially in the parking garages."

"I think I could feel safer at night. There needs to be more lighting on campus"

"Not at night, given the assaults that have happened and the poor university response. I would like more lighting on campus."

"I feel fairly safe, but there is always room for more lighting at night."

"I feel safe sometimes during the day but never in the nighttime unless I'm with other people. This is the reason I don't leave my home after the sun sets...I've heard too many sad stories happening in Sacramento and bordering cities."

3. Fairness and Inclusivity in Class: Somewhat Satisfied with fairness and inclusivity of the classroom environments and interactions with respect to individuals of various gender identities.
4. Acknowledging Diverse Contributions: Somewhat Satisfied with how Sac State acknowledges and recognizes the contributions of women, men, and nonbinary individuals across fields and disciplines.
5. Inclusive Curriculum: Sac State's curriculum is somewhat inclusive of diverse gender perspectives, meaning students read female, male, and nonbinary authors.
6. Majors:
 - Undergraduate: Business, Biology, Child and Adolescent Development, Communications, Computer Engineering, Economics, Education, English, Family Studies and Human Development, Health Science, History, Nursing, Political Science, Public Health, Psychology, Recreation Parks and Tourism Administration, Social Work
 - Graduate Majors: Teaching Credential, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, School Counseling
7. Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention: The largest share of respondents (39% or n=17) are aware of the university reporting requirements and efforts, but do not think those efforts are effective.
8. OB-GYN Services: Most (89%) of respondents are aware of OB-GYN services at the Student Health Center; 5 (or 11%) were not.
9. Birth Control: 59% of respondents were aware of birth control options available at Student Health Center; 41% of respondents were unaware.
10. Free pregnancy tests on campus: Most respondents (48% or n=21) were not aware of all the locations they could access a free pregnancy test on campus; 27% (n=12) were aware of one location, and 25% (n=11) were aware of all locations. (Student Health Center and WRC)

11. Perception of Equal Opportunities: Twenty (57%) respondents think there are equal opportunities for all gender identities on campus, both in academics and extracurricular activities; 6 (17%) are uncertain or wrote "n/a"; and 9 respondents (26%) do not feel there are equal opportunities for people of all gender identities. Below are a few responses to this open question.

"No, sometimes I'm ignored when my hand is raised."

"Academic, not necessarily. I've had professors that seem to sway towards picking white male students voices/opinions over women and POC. I once had a professor ask a question, I answered the question CORRECTLY and they said no, but then a white male student said the same thing I did but rephrased with different wording and the professor said they were correct. There wasn't a language barrier, it's not that I wasn't specific enough, it was just that a white student answered after me. So no I can't say I completely see equal opportunities for individuals. I've had to fight for things more than other students have and it sucks because I really wish I didn't have to."

"I think certain areas are funded more than others. For example, the WRC use to be the area I hung out in my first year at Sac State but the amount of times there was a lack of staff even though the student employees working were doing their best to keep the center open. It was great to hear the history of the WRC but it is unfair the amount of times that they have tried shutting it down."

"Students' parents specifically mothers and pregnant women need a community sense of belonging here on campus to fully take advantage of the resources they pay for in their tuition."

12. Representation in Leadership: The largest proportion of respondents (n=16 or 36%) are somewhat satisfied with representation of different gender identities in campus leadership including faculty, staff and administration.
13. Community Support: To what extent do you feel supported by the college community in addressing issues related to gender equity? In general, students feel supported. Here are a sample of responses to this open question:

"I am not confident that sac state will make the changes necessary to make female identified students feel safe on campus."

"I feel very supported by the college community and know many faculty and staff who deeply care for their students and their wellbeing so I'm really content with the support and wish that other students felt the same way too - perhaps more events/announced resources would help students feel more supported because sometimes certain events/information doesn't seem as advertised as other ones do (example: you have to follow the Pride Center or WRC accounts to know about these events while more campus wide accounts like ASI or the official college account don't post much about this type of content or resources)."

"The women's resource center needs a bigger space, it can feel cramped. As well as the PRIDE center."

"I feel like the campus doesn't care as much about gender equality and inclusivity as it does with racial and religious based like when a man from outside the school was harassing female students saying that we don't deserve rights and should be quiet and only focus on getting a man and when campus police was called we were told that they couldn't do anything about it."

"Campus police does a good job."

14. What are the top 5 events and programs students want the Women's Resource Center to offer?

- Self-defense classes (82% or 36)
- Professional women mentors (73% or 32)
- Health and wellness guidance and support focused on female-identified students (68% or n=30)
- Arts and Crafts activities (66% or 29)
- Sacramento Women's Network: connecting students and professionals to each other and to peers (61% or n=27)

15. What else should we know? Here are a sample of responses to this open question:

"Maybe a monthly or bi-monthly conference to give female-identifying students a platform to talk about issues, suggestions, and feedback involving CSUS (campus, resource centers, classes, facilities, etc)"

"I'm interested in learning more about female athletics and athletes at Games. It would be great if we hear their experiences."

"I would also like to see a study space for student parents that is kid friendly."

"Be open to event suggestions from students."

"I want there to be more pads and tampons on campus and in the dorms."

"Please do the professional mentors, I would love to have a mentor who would support my journey."

Baseline Data on Female-Identified Students – For Academic Year 2023-24

- Enrollment:
 - Sacramento State Spring 2024 enrollment included 56% female and 44% male students overall.
 - Undergraduate students are 55% female and 45% male.
 - Graduate students are 65% female, 34% male, and 0.4% nonbinary.
- College enrollment by gender identity:
 - Most Sac State colleges enroll predominantly female-identified students.
 - Education: 92% female, 8% male
 - Health & Human Services: 70% female, 29.5% male, 0.2% nonbinary
 - Natural Sciences & Mathematics: 60% female, 40% male
 - Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies: 68% female, 32% male

- Arts & Letters: 54% female, 47% male, 0.6% nonbinary
 - Two colleges enroll mostly male-identified students.
 - Engineering & Computer Science: 84% male, 16% female
 - Business: 56% male, 44% female
- Representation in Campus Presidents and ASI Presidents
 - 100% of Sac State's 9 presidents have been male
 - 19.7% of Sac State's ASI presidents have been female (n=15 of 76 total ASI presidents)
- Workforce: Student Affairs Student Assistants
 - 69% female, 30% male, 0.2% nonbinary
- Mostly Female-identified Students Utilize Student Health & Counseling Services
 - Counseling visits: 70% female, 29% male, 0.01% nonbinary
 - Medical visits: 70% female, 29% male, 0.005% nonbinary
- Involvement:
 - Female-identified students tend to be involved in Greek Life/sororities
 - These students have higher GPAs than their male counterparts
 - Male-identified students tend to be involved in Sport Clubs
 - 9 of 16 sport club teams are all males
- Student-Athletes
 - 55% male, 45% female
 - Female student athletes have higher GPAs (3.37), on average, than male athletes (3.09 average)

The campus presentation that was given at the Anti-Racist and Inclusive Campus Plan in March 2024 is posted on the WRC website at csus.edu/wrc under "Research".