

“Know Your IX”

Background & Context

Following of the events that have occurred this year and previous involving sexual discrimination and violence, the AS Legal Information Center and the AS Sexual Awareness Center would like to bring the student led national organization “Know Your IX” to Westerns Campus. Know Your IX is an organization comprised of college students that aim to empower students to end sexual and dating violence. Using title IX as a foundation, they will be able to educate and work closely with students to establish solutions surrounding the very prevalent issue of sexual violence on Western’ campus.

Know Your IX mission: *“We recognize that gender violence is both a cause of inequity and a consequence of it, and we believe that women, transgender, and gender non-conforming students will not have equality in education or opportunity until the violence ends. We draw upon the civil rights law Title IX as an alternative to the criminal legal system — one that is more just and responsive to the educational, emotional, financial, and stigmatic harms of violence.”*

Overall, our AS offices believe that Know Your IX will be a great organization that can contribute to Westerns campus. Bringing the knowledge and experience of Know Your IX organizers will help better the campus climate on campus. Their grass-root involvement with similar campuses around the United States will support students at Western and help them feel empowered to combat violent and discriminatory systems of inequality by advocating change.

Summary of Proposal

We are in contact with Know Your IX leaders now, and plan on two of their organizers to present a workshop for 45 students on Friday, May 27th. The workshop will be titled “Our Rights, Our Campus: Learning the law, developing demands, and reclaiming our campus. This will be a Western specific workshop that will cater to the campus climate of Western. Having informed the group on the issues that Western has faced involving title IX, Know Your IX will be helping attending students establish a proactive plan that will warrant the protection of peers against sexual violence.

Our offices plan on capping the event at 45 students to ensure that the space will be intimate enough to create a conducive and effective organizing atmosphere. We will be opening up a sign-up list, that will be first come first serve. A waitlist will follow for students that are unable to sign up on the first, this will also hold as a record for future similar events.

This proposal is to ask for \$4314 from the Legislative Affairs (FXXLAF) to pay for the honorarium and flights for two Know Your IX organizers. The organizers are coming from the East Coast and are students of Columbia University and Duke. The AS exists for the experience of *all* Western students, and we have made it a priority to use many different outreach methods including: The Resource and Outreach Programs offices, the AS Review, the Ethnic Student Center, Fairhaven College and the Center for Education, Equity, and Diversity. With these resources we plan, on outreaching to as many Western students as possible specially to fill the 40 available spots.

Fiscal Implications

Honorarium	\$1500/ two organizers	\$3000
Flights	Approx. \$640 Raleigh NC to Bellingham & \$575 NYC to Bellingham	\$1200 total
Hotel	\$64/night x 1 room @ (one night)	\$64 (\$32/per organizer)
Food	1 D @ \$50	\$50 (\$25/per organizer)
Total		\$4,314 (\$2,157/per organizer)

From this budget:

Honorarium	\$3000
Flights	\$1200
Hotel	\$64
Food	\$50
Total	\$4314

Rationale

Having Know Your IX here at Western will enhance the critical consciousness and awareness of students on campus about sexual violence. With the title IX investigation that took place earlier this year, this event will bring clarity and action for those who are survivors of sexual violence. Following this event, students will not only have the knowledge of what a title IX infraction looks like, but will also have the tools and empowerment to call for accountability and action. Furthermore, having an outside entity with expertise, is a great way to evaluate the safety of students on campus, giving a new perspective on how to tackle sexual violence and discrimination on Westerns campus.