

## **April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)**

*We see you. We believe you. You matter.*

Sexual Assault Awareness Month brings people together to create and generate discussion and skill-building on how to prevent sexual violence in our schools, workplaces, and communities. While providing support and care to survivors of sexual violence is an everyday action, this awareness month also carves out intentional moments to honor and believe survivors' stories and experiences.

As we continue to navigate this ongoing public health crisis, we won't be able to physically come together this April to do this critical work. The Women's Center and all of our campus partners including the Office of Equity and Inclusion, Retriever Integrated Health, Green Dot, and Retriever Courage, and more will nonetheless continue to promote awareness and prevention this month.

**And, remember, no matter where you are, dear survivors, we see you. We believe you. You matter. Always.**



## **SAAM 2022 Calendar of Events**

### **UMBC Take Back the Night Virtual Experience**

[Ongoing](#)

[Online](#)

This interactive virtual gallery contains images and survivor testimony in the form of poems and audio vignettes as a tribute to UMBC's Take Back the Night. This event invites our campus to come together to speak out and heal together in community. Take Back the Night is a public testimony. It is about making sexual assault and our support for survivors visible and not tucked away behind closed doors.

### **Office of Equity and Inclusion Campus Climate Survey**

[Ongoing: Due April 25th, 2022](#)

[Online](#)

The 2022 campus climate survey has been launched! Information gathered from the survey will be used to inform our ongoing education, prevention, and response work, and is an important component in campus-wide efforts to stop, prevent, and remedy the effects of sexual misconduct at UMBC. You can access the online survey here until Monday, April 25, 2022, and it will take about 15-25 minutes to complete. This survey is anonymous and confidential.

### **Retriever Integrated Health Community Conversations**

[Thursday, April 7, 2022](#) · 6 - 7 PM

[Library and Gallery, Albin O. Kuhn : Gallery](#)

A community can be a vital tool to help all of us get through life's ups and downs and celebrate our big and small moments. Community Conversations is an interactive event that will help students understand the role of community in supporting their well-being and mental health. This conversation will also highlight what it means to "show up" for others. This event is in coordination with the Mental Health Community Action Day on April 7th. \*NOTE this is not only geared towards survivors, but may be a good outlet for care\*

### **UMBC Together Mental Health Awareness Walk**

[Thursday, April 7, 2022](#) · 12:30 - 1 PM

[Biological Sciences](#)

Connecting with others and moving our bodies both help with mental health and self-care. Please meet us in the Breezeway of the Biological Sciences Building for a 1-mile walk to relieve stress and connect with others. We will end our walk at the same location with an OCA Mocha pop up table. This session is part of USC's 4/7 Mental Health Community Action Day. \*NOTE this is not only geared towards survivors, but may be a good outlet for care\*

### **Women's Center We Believe You Discussion Group**

[Tuesday, April 12, 2022](#) · 3 - 4 PM

[The Commons : Women's Center](#)

The We Believe You Discussion Group creates space to center the experiences of survivors of sexual- and power-based violence. It is a bi-weekly group that follows the Women's Center Brave Space model to provide a welcoming environment and thoughtful community to engage in conversations focused on support and healing for survivors of sexual violence. This group centers the experiences of survivors and their allies; we request that students do not use this space for class research or interviews. The remaining dates for this event this semester include April 12, April 26, May 10th.

### **Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training Faculty & Staff**

[Friday, April 22, 2022](#) · 1-5 PM

[The Commons : 329](#)

Green Dot is built on the premise that in order to measurably reduce the perpetration of power-based personal violence, including sexual violence, partner violence, or stalking, a cultural shift is necessary. This highly interactive session is great for you and your friends or colleagues to: a) understand the impact of power-based personal violence on campus and in various communities, b) learn how to identify power-based personal violence and respond within the bounds of your strengths and limitations, c) practice newly developed skills to be prepared for enacting this in your daily life.

### **Women's Center We Believe You Discussion Group**

[Tuesday, April 26, 2022](#) · 3 - 4 PM

[The Commons : Women's Center](#)

The We Believe You Discussion Group creates space to center the experiences of survivors of sexual- and power-based violence. It is a bi-weekly group that follows the Women's Center Brave Space model to provide a welcoming environment and thoughtful community to engage in conversations focused on support and healing for survivors of sexual violence. This group centers the experiences of survivors and their allies; we request that students do not use this space for class research or interviews. The remaining dates for this event this semester include April 12, April 26, May 10th.

### **Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training Students**

[Friday, April 29, 2022](#) · 1 - 5 PM

[The Commons : 329](#)

Green Dot is built on the premise that in order to measurably reduce the perpetration of power-based personal violence, including sexual violence, partner violence, or stalking, a cultural shift is necessary. This highly interactive session is great for you and your friends or colleagues to: a) understand the impact

of power-based personal violence on campus and in various communities, b) learn how to identify power-based personal violence and respond within the bounds of your strengths and limitations, c) practice newly developed skills to be prepared for enacting this in your daily life.

## **SAAM 2022 Initiatives**

### **Retriever Integrated Health Survivor First Group**

<https://health.umbc.edu/counseling-services/counseling/>

Survivor First is a semester-long interpersonal processing group for students who have experienced sexual assault. This group is designed to provide a safe and confidential space for students to address how sexual trauma has impacted them and their ability to relate to others. The goal of the group is not to recount specific experiences of trauma in detail, but rather to help survivors learn new ways of connecting and relating to others. Survivor First is a gender-inclusive group.

The first step to joining any group is to complete a triage appointment. Please visit the [appointments](#) page for information about how to schedule an appointment.

### **Women's Center Blogs**

<https://womenscenteratumbc.wordpress.com/category/sexual-assault-awareness-month/>

This page shows Women's Center blog posts related to Sexual Assault Awareness Month. They discuss topics from supporting survivors and allyship to bystander intervention training.

### **MCASA Sexual Assault Awareness Month Online Space**

<https://mcasa.org/prevention/sexual-assault-awareness-month>

This page belongs to MCASA the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. They have compiled various resources including SAAM individual activities, SAAM Art Gallery, and other social media initiatives.

### **Take Back the Night Foundation**

<https://takebackthenight.org/history/>

This webpage details the history of the Take Back the Night Foundation within the United States. The site displays a timeline of information through newspaper clippings and other photograph and written archives. The link also leads to information about other chapters and events hosted by the Foundation.

## **SAAM 2022 Resources**

### On-Campus Resources Available for Virtual Support:

- Office of Equity and Inclusion
- Retriever Integrated Health Services
- Women's Center
- Visit Retriever Courage for a full list of campus resources and support to include resources for USG students, faculty, and staff

*You can [use this form](#) to confidentially report incidents under the UMBC Sexual Misconduct (Title IX) Policy, and Anti-Discrimination Policy which apply to all UMBC students, student employees, faculty, staff, interns, contractors, volunteers, guests and visitors. There is an option to submit this form anonymously.*

### Off-Campus Resources:

- TurnAround, Inc. Helpline (Available 24/7): 443-279-0379; Office: 410-377-8111
- MCASA is still open and supporting survivors.
- The National Sexual Assault Hotline is 24/7, confidential and free: 800-656-HOPE (4673) and through chat.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 24/7, confidential and free: 1-800-799-7233 and through chat.
- Visit Retriever Courage for a more extensive list of off-campus resources and support

**Follow the Women's Center on myUMBC, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for SAAM updates and information throughout the month of April.**



*UMBC's Take Back the Night 2017*

ID: A group of UMBC community members standing up for survivors in front of the Public Policy Building. They hold signs and a megaphone.