Loyola University New Orleans 2014 Womens Resource Center Annual Report

1.0 Executive Summary

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Women’s Resource Center is to provide Loyola women and men with a positive college experience by responding to their needs as gendered human beings and by fostering an environment that is free of sexism and other forms of institutional and individual oppression.

B. **General Statement:** The Women’s Resource Center strives to create a supportive and inclusive campus environment through programming, services, and advocacy. The Center supports the educational mission of Women’s Studies through programming and services: it offers opportunities for students to explore questions and concerns and provides opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional development and empowerment through programming; it encourages and promotes the interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge about women amongst faculty; and it seeks to include and respond to the needs of staff members.

C. **Executive Summary:** During the Academic Year 2013-2014 the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) offered a variety of programs meant to engage both the Loyola and greater New Orleans communities. The WRC partnered with a number of other units on campus, drawing on the strengths of our staff, faculty, and students here at Loyola to provide meaningful programs. One of the WRC goals is to regularly offer programming that is holistic and multi-dimensional. The WRC has strived to include more input from the Loyola community and has worked especially to give a staff in the types of programs we offer—we offered two programs this year that only catered to staff. Furthermore, we formed the WRC Advisory Committee this year. The committee is made up of individuals from different departments across campus so that the WRC can reach out of Academic Affairs. In addition, we continue to be intentional about outreach efforts to the New Orleans community and beyond. ame, description of department.

2.0 Unit Profile Summary

**Staff Headcount**

DIRECTOR

2 STUDENT INTERNS DURING ACADEMIC YEAR

2 INTERNS DURING SUMMER

2.1 Staff Headcount
Thibodaux, Julie AWomen's Resource CenterInterim DirectorFull-Time

3.0 Goals for Current Academic Year

1. GOAL: Resource Focused
   a. We reached out to community groups and campus student support services to house resources in the WRC for the Loyola community
      i. Resources include: University Counseling Center advertising, healthy eating materials from Ochsner, pregnancy resource help from the Women’s Life Center, Men Against Rape brochures

2. GOAL: Campus-Wide Outreach
   a. Co-programmed throughout the year with departments and colleges
   b. Offered programs to faculty, staff and students throughout the year

3. GOAL: Community Outreach
   a. Attended women’s rights groups meetings, participated in legislative session with the Legislative Agenda for Women

4. GOAL: WRC Visibility
   a. Part of the co-programming—goal was to work with departments across campus so that they know we are here
   b. Trans Awareness poster campaign
   c. Black History Month poster campaign

5. GOAL: WRC Advisory Board/Strategic Plan
   a. Advisory Board formed in August
   b. Environmental Scan is being worked on now

6. GOAL: LGBT/Gender Based Work
   a. Guided the Queer/Straight Student Alliance and Students Advocating for Gender Equality
   b. Trans awareness posters
   c. Worked with Public Relations for a Safe Zone Logo (training for LGBT allies)

7. GOAL: Student-Friendly Hours for WRC/WRC Living Room
   a. Changed the office hours in WRC to reflect student scheduled
   b. Worked with LUPD to not lock living room when the building is open

We just formed an advisory board in April 2014. The first task of the advisory board is to develop a strategic plan for the WRC. This summer, Anne Barkley, our summer intern, will be working on the environmental scan that is needed to begin the strategic plan.

4.0 Budget for Current Academic Year
### Budget for Current Academic Year:

**TOTAL BUDGET:** $66,000 including salaries

**OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL:** $10,000; $453.00 WAS NOT USED

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The $10,000 operating budget was adequate to support our goals this year. It would be helpful to have more money in the salary budget to hire a full-time intern or full-time office assistant/program coordinator.

### 5.0 Assessment Report

Methods of Assessment: discussion and feedback from Women’s Studies Committee and Women’s Resource Center Student Advisory Board; “exit” meetings at the end of programs with partners in the program; informal discussion with students, faculty, staff, and community partners about programming.

### 6.0 Summary of Achievements

**Lactation Room:** WRC houses the one lactation room on campus for nursing moms. It was establish in January 2014

Jackie Joseph, a two-year intern the WRC, received the Dr. Alton F. Doody Spirit of Leadership Award - This award is presented to one student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership on campus and embodied the values of respect, excellence, diversity, wholeness, and dignity. This student has also helped to promote a more inclusive environment at Loyola.

Alina Gordillo, the president of SAGE and regular WRC helper received the Janet Mary Riley Award for the Advancement of Women's Issues - This award is presented to a Loyola student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on issues central to women on campus and in the larger community. The student promotes the mission of Loyola University New Orleans and has demonstrated commitment to women's issues through programming, research, leading an organization, or through other academic efforts.
Service Learners: This year we had four service learners from Dr. Rae Taylor’s class on Domestic Violence
  - Service Learners created a sexual assault brochure, newsletter and worked on assessing other WRCs in the US

Legislative Agenda for Women and Louisiana Women’s Roundtable: Julie Thibodaux worked with two LA-based groups that work to fight for women’s rights in this state

Letter to the Editor: In May 2014, Julie Thibodaux and Laura Hope (co-director of women’s studies) brought together a group of women activists in New Orleans to write a letter to the editor about the misclassifications of rapes by the New Orleans Police Department.

Brown Bag Lunches: WRC hosted 5 brown bag lunches in Spring 2014
  - Two of our brown bag lunches featured NOLA community partners. This was the first year WRC also used community partners as well as professors for the brown bag lunches

Film Screening: “Lady Be Good” screened at Loyola with the College of Music and Fine Arts and the filmmaker. It also included a panel with women jazz musicians in NOLA.

Formed the WRC Advisory board

7 Supporting Documents

AGENDA

WRC Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 30th, 2014

12 PM to 1 PM
Library Seminar Room 1

Meeting called by Melanie McKay and Julie Thibodaux

Members: Melanie McKay, Julie Thibodaux, Joe Deegan, Katie Canella, Natasha Bingham, Carmen Balthazar, Angela Honora, Frankie Weinberg, Morgan Whittler, Laura Hope, Connie Mui, Brooks Zitzmann, Jackie Joseph

Guest: Heather Mack
I. Introductions

II. History of WRC and WS Committee
   a. Need for advisory board for WRC
      i. Increase visibility on campus/Promotion of WRC and WRC’s Mission
         1. Input
         2. Attention to needs on campus
      ii. Carrying WRC information to departments throughout campus/working with departments throughout campus
         1. Sharing WRC Information
         2. Bringing information to WRC

III. Strategic Plan for WRC
   a. Heather Mack will present and answer questions about the steps for WRC’s strategic plan
      i. Strategic Plan action steps
      ii. Explain the Environmental Scan
          1. Julie will update on where this stands as of meeting
      iii. Time-line for strategic plan

IV. Survey of Advisory Board
   a. Thinking of this school year ONLY
      i. Where did you noticed WRC on campus? Did WRC have an impact
      ii. Where did you see WRC lacking a presence of campus?
   b. Thinking through your time at Loyola
i. Where did you notice WRC on campus? Did WRC have an impact
ii. Where did you see WRC lacking a presence on campus?

Womens Resource Center Supporting Documents