Welcome to **EMPOWERMENT SCOOP**, a newsletter consisting of education, tools, resources, and support provided by Kennesaw State University’s Office of Victim Services (OVS) and the Community, Outreach, Recruitment & Engagement Unit (C.O.R.E.). While we continue to practice our COVID-19 safety protocols, OVS and C.O.R.E. would like to continue communicating and building relationships with students, faculty, and staff.

### Who Are We?

**Community, Outreach, Recruitment & Engagement (C.O.R.E.)**

The Community Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement (C.O.R.E.) Unit is responsible for crime prevention and the proactive commitment to the empowerment of the Kennesaw State University Community. C.O.R.E. provides educational guidance through brochures, presentations, social media, campus assessments, and informational programming. We understand that the law can be complex and confusing at times. The C.O.R.E. Unit offers informational sessions on how laws impact you, to aid in supporting good decision making.

---

**Sergeant Charles Dickens**

Sergeant Charles Dickens has been a member of the Kennesaw State University Police Department since 2014. During his time here, he has served as a patrol officer, and as a part of the community outreach unit since 2016. Some of Sgt. Dickens’ community involvement includes being a Co-Chair on the Presidential Committee for LGBTQ Initiatives from 2017-2019. Sgt Dickens also organized KSU’s Winter Dinner with Friends, which serves to provide a holiday meal for those who do not go home during winter break, and has been a staple in his year for the last five years. As recognition of his hard work, Sgt. Dickens was the recipient of Kennesaw State University’s Positive Impact Award at the Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony in 2017, and the Teresa M. Joyce Award for Excellence, for his work creating a supportive environment for KSU’s LGBTQ community, in 2018. Sgt. Dickens received his Master’s in Higher Education Administration from Georgia Southern University, and is currently working on his Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Georgia Southern University. When Sergeant Dickens is not working to improve the community here at KSU, he spends his time camping, cooking for his friends, and spending time with his family.

---

**Corporal Michael Guerrero**

Michael Guerrero (Mike) is the Corporal for C.O.R.E and former Emergency Management Coordinator for the Marietta Campus. He holds a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Criminal Justice through Argosy University. Mike has 11 years of law enforcement experience. Prior to his current position, he was a Police Corporal with Kennesaw State University and a police officer, Sergeant, and Lieutenant with the Southern Polytechnic State University prior to consolidation. Some duties as an officer included Field Training Officer and a P.O.S.T certified instructor. Mike has also served nine years in the United States Army earning the rank of Sergeant. Service Stations includes Fort Drum, NY, Fort Benning, GA, Camp Humphreys, Korea, and the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, through the Multination Force and Observers.

---

**Outreach & Prevention Education**

Interested in learning more about a particular topic?? OVS and C.O.R.E. would love to come out and speak to your class or organization.
Office of Victim Services (OVS)

OVS is a 24/7, confidential resource on campus that assists students, faculty, and staff who have been impacted by a crime. Our nationally credentialed Victim Advocates provide the following services:

- Emotional support & crisis intervention
- Medical Advocacy (coordinating sexual assault exams, pregnancy, STI testing, and emergency contraception)
- Discussing options for reporting to campus safety or local law enforcement.
- Act as a liaison to address any concerns with academics or other campus services.
- Safety planning & assistance with protective orders
- Referrals to counseling & support groups.

Kelly Burkes has over 15 years of experience in the field of Victim Advocacy, specializing in domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and stalking. Prior to joining KSU’s Office of Victim Services in 2016, she worked as a Court Advocate in Chicago, Illinois, and Advocacy Specialist, Forensic Interviewer, and Training Coordinator in Duluth, GA. Kelly is a nationally credentialed advocate through NOVA’s National Advocate Credentialing Program. She earned her B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and M.A. in Forensic Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Jessica Aguirre is a Victim Advocate with the Office of Victim Services, where she works with students who have been victimized by a crime. She graduated from Kennesaw State University, with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 2017. In 2017, she started working in Victim Advocacy with LiveSAFE Resources. She worked as a Bilingual Sexual Assault Advocate, Legal Advocate, and Victim Liaison with Cobb County’s Special Victim Unit. Jessica is a nationally credentialed advocate through NOVA’s National Advocate Credentialing Program.

Tanya Smith is the director of the Office of Victim Services at Kennesaw State University. Smith graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from KSU, earned a master’s degree in Public Safety Administration from Columbus State University, and is a doctoral candidate in Public Administration at Valdosta State University. Additionally, Smith is a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College. She has served in law enforcement since 1994, retiring from the Holly Springs Police Department as a lieutenant before joining KSU in 2014. During her law enforcement tenure at the Holly Springs Police Department, she commanded two divisions - Criminal Investigations and Administrative Services/Office of Professional Standards - while also serving as the department’s public spokesman, terminal agency coordinator, and certification manager. She was successful in gaining state certification for the Holly Springs Police Department, earning her an achievement award presented by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. Other notable awards and recognitions include a 2014 Award of Excellence from Kennesaw State University for her work in building the first victim services division at KSU, and implementing the first opioid overdose prevention program for law enforcement in the State of Georgia which supplies police officers with the lifesaving drug, naloxone. This program earned a nomination, ultimately a finalist, for the Dr. Curtis E. McClung/Motorola Award of Excellence in 2015, which honors achievements in innovative training program(s) with widespread implications on community/department and the law enforcement profession. She holds certifications in supervision, management, intermediate law enforcement, Georgia P.O.S.T. General Instructor, and is a NACP Advanced Credentialed Advocate with a concentration in program management and as a Comprehensive Intervention Specialist.

Contact Info:
Community, Outreach, Recruitment & Engagement Unit (C.O.R.E.)
Phone: 470.578.2754
Email: ksupdcore@kennesaw.edu
Website: https://police.kennesaw.edu/core/ksupcore.php
Follow us on https://www.facebook.com/ksupd

Office of Victim Services (OVS)
Phone: 470.578.4257 (24/7 Hotline)
Email: ovs@kennesaw.edu
Website: https://ovs.kennesaw.edu
Follow us on https://www.facebook.com/ksuovs2014