September 6, 2017

Welcome back to another exciting academic year. Thank you for all you do to promote a culture of healthy sexuality at Northwestern. I am excited to share with you changes to the Center for Awareness, Response, and Education (CARE) that will continue to elevate the work you do, and CARE’s work to support survivors of sexual violence and promote education at Northwestern. Since opening in 2011, CARE has grown significantly. Starting with one staff member, it has since received two Office on Violence Against Women grants and grown to consist of three full time staff. In many ways thanks to your work in peer education, this has allowed many more Northwestern students to understand consent and connect with services.

It is because of this growth I would like to announce that CARE will become its own, freestanding office as of today, September 1st 2017. This will include changing Erin Clark’s role to Director of CARE, and Carrie Wachter’s to Assistant Director of Sexual Violence Response Services and Advocacy; we have also committed to ongoing funding of the Coordinator of Men’s Engagement position. In addition to elevating the role of this office, it also will allow us to draw more clear lines around the work CARE does as a unique center. This move will not impact any of the services or programs currently provided by CARE, including the support of peer education and SPEAK.

Since its founding, CARE has been a part of Health Promotion and Wellness under Health Services, sharing resources and supervision. As of this quarter, CARE will move to be supervised by the Executive Director of Counseling and Psychological Services John Dunkle, who will now supervise both CARE and CAPS. This move allows CARE to operate independently, and to have institutional support for the work of supporting trauma survivors and students in crisis. CARE will not be a division of CAPS, but rather a freestanding center with a separate budget, strategic plan, goals, and operations.

Please reach out to CARE staff, John Dunkle, or myself to ask any questions you may have about anything mentioned in this letter. Thank you for all your work to make Northwestern a healthy, safe place and we are excited to continue to grow this work in creating a culture of consent at Northwestern.

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