

## Western Iowa Tech Community College

### UNDERSTANDING CONSENT

Consent is knowing, voluntary, and active permission to engage in sexual activity. It must be given by clear words or actions **prior to** each and every sexual encounter. **Silence or inaction can NEVER constitute consent.** If you are not sure if someone wants sex, ask.

#### **Some warning signs that consent is not present are:**

- You or your partner are too intoxicated to fully understand what is happening.
- You or your partner is asleep, passed out or unconscious.
- You or your partner makes assumptions that sexual activity is going to happen.
- You or your partner intend to have sex by any means necessary.

#### **Some signs that you should slow down and talk are:**

- You or your partner is not sure about what the other person wants.
- You or your partner feels like there are mixed signals.
- You or your partner assumes that since you had sex before you will again.
- You or your partner stops talking or responding.

#### **Some signs that both partners are willing participants are:**

- You and your partner have talked about what you want to do.
- You and your partner have clearly expressed comfort with the situation.
- You and your partner feel safe and comfortable with stopping at any time.

### What Can You Do?

- Pay attention to friends and family members who may exhibit a sudden change in personality or demeanor, especially when coinciding with a new relationship. Check in with them and offer assistance.
- In any situation, you can choose to help, do nothing or contribute to negative behavior. Helping can be as much as confronting individuals engaged in negative behavior or as little as creating a distraction to break up the activity. What is important is to do something.
- Always stay safe. When you are alone or the situation has escalated, your safety and the safety of others may be at risk. In situations like this, call for help (e.g., the police, an RA Resident Assistance, campus Security, etc.)
- When going out to parties or events, use the buddy system. Go together and leave together.
- Report sexual assault, dating/domestic violence and stalking to the College's Human Resources Office at ext. 1220 or to the College's Security Department at ext. 6414. These offices on campus are here to help and have trained staff that can assist students with safely handling these issues.

*This information has been provided by the WITCC Title IX Committee. Please contact Title IX Coordinator at [Brenda.Bradley@witcc.edu](mailto:Brenda.Bradley@witcc.edu) or at (712) 274-6400 ext. 1220 additional information. bsb/9-25-15*