



Dear CSUSM students, faculty and staff,

October is nationally recognized as Dating/Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time for us not only to raise awareness but also to take action as a community. It is an opportunity for us to learn how we can prevent intimate partner harm from happening and support those who have been impacted.

Intimate partner violence impacts all of us directly or indirectly. Early in my career, I worked as a crisis counselor, providing support to those experiencing abuse and other personal emergencies. I quickly came to understand that, all too often, dating and domestic violence lives in secrecy and comes at the hands of someone known and loved.

According to the [One Love Foundation](#), more than 1 in 3 women, nearly 1 in 3 men, and over 1 in 2 trans or nonbinary people in the United States will be in an abusive relationship in their lifetime. Relationship abuse is not always physical violence; it is often a pattern of behaviors used to gain or maintain power and control over a partner. Common types of relationship harm include emotional, sexual, financial and technological abuse.

Together, let's take action by educating ourselves and make it clear that we do not tolerate dating/domestic violence at CSUSM. I invite you to attend the annual DV Vigil and Speak-Out on Tuesday, Oct. 25 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Forum Plaza. This will be an opportunity to hear from an alumni survivor speaker, Erica Alfaro, learn about campus and community resources, and honor those who have been harmed and/or murdered due to intimate partner violence. I encourage you also to participate in other [workshops and events](#) organized by Student Health & Counseling Services' HOPE & Wellness Center throughout the month.

To those who have been impacted, please know that you are not alone and the following resources are available:

- [Sexual Violence Advocacy & Education](#)
- [Title IX Office](#)
- [Women and Gender Equity Center](#)
- [One Safe Place: The North County Family Justice Center](#) (off-campus resource)
- [Center for Community Solutions](#) (off-campus resource)
- [Women's Resource Center](#) (off-campus resource)
- The [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) also can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-799-SAFE (7233).

Every one of us plays an important role in helping to prevent harm in our community, not only in October but year-round. Together we can support those who have been impacted and put an end to intimate partner violence. Please join me in this effort.

Sincerely,
Ellen Neufeldt
President