P.A.W.S. Peers Advocating Wellness Successfully

Who are Peer Educators?
• P.A.W.S. is the GC chapter of The BACCHUS Network, a national organization that focuses on college health and safety issues. (www.bacchusgamma.org).
• Peer Educators provide programming and disseminate information concerning alcohol, drugs, sexuality, and other health-related issues to their fellow college students.
• Peer Educators are caring helpers who serve as a resource to fellow students in need.
• Peer Educators are role models who make healthy choices and encourage healthy and positive choices in the lives of others.
• Peer Educators are certified through a BACCHUS national training program designed to empower them to educate, confront, listen to, and help their peers make healthy lifestyle choices.
• Peer Educators subscribe to a national Code of Ethics that includes treating others with respect and dignity, honoring diversity, maintaining confidentiality except in situations of danger to self or others, serving as a link between students and professional support services on campus, and accepting supervision.

When Should I Utilize a Peer Educator?
Students:
Peer Educators can be contacted for confidential one-on-one peer support. They can listen, help with brainstorming and planning for behavior change, and offer referrals to professional support services on campus. Peer Educators are not mental health professionals. They are not trained to provide counseling, but can help you to explore a wellness concern, problem-solve, and find the motivation to change.

Students, Faculty, & Staff:
Another great reason to utilize a Peer Educator is a program or presentation for your group. Peer Educators are trained in presentation skills and can provide a program for your group on their own, or in conjunction with staff from wellness services on campus. These departments include Student Health Services, Kinesiology/Health Education, Wellness and Recreation Center, Women's Resource Center, and Counseling Services.

How Do I Contact a Peer Educator?
For a program request, please contact P.A.W.S. advisor:
Rachel Sullivan (478) 445-1670 rachel.sullivan@gcsu.edu

How Do I Become a Peer Educator?
Contact P.A.W.S. advisor:
Rachel Sullivan (478) 445-1670 rachel.sullivan@gcsu.edu

Membership incentives:
Opportunity to earn service hours
Development of marketable skills for employers
Training certification to show employers
Opportunity to present at conference
Chance to earn letters of recommendation
Free regional conference participation
Peer Educator t-shirt

Membership requirements:
Participation in BACCHUS training
Must pass BACCHUS certification test
2.5 minimum GPA
Legal and low-risk personal alcohol use
Service within PAWS
One year commitment to group
Participation in a monthly PAWS meeting