Clery Timely Warning Notice--Reported Sexual Assault

To: The Georgia College Community  
From: Scott Beckner, Director of Public Safety  
Date: 10/27/2015

In compliance with the “Timely Notice” provisions of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998, the department of Public Safety for Georgia College is giving notice of safety advice relating to reported incidents.

Georgia College Public Safety was notified of a reported sexual assault on Monday, Oct 26, 2015. The reported sexual assault occurred at approximately 1 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9, 2015. The female victim is a student at Georgia College. The victim reported she parked her vehicle in lot 40, near the intersection of Wayne Street and Thomas Street. When she exited her vehicle, she was approached and physically restrained by an unknown male suspect. The suspect sexually assaulted her near the parking lot.

Georgia College will not tolerate sexual misconduct and will provide resources and recourse for individuals whose rights may have been violated by an act of sexual misconduct by any member of the university community.

Sexual assault can be defined as any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient of the unwanted sexual activity. Falling under the definition of sexual assault is sexual activity such as forced sexual intercourse, sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling and attempted rape.

"Consent" means words or actions that show a knowing and voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. Consent cannot be gained by force, by ignoring or acting in spite of the objections of another, or by taking advantage of the incapacitation of another, where the accused knows or reasonably should have known of such incapacitation. Consent to one activity does not imply consent to subsequent or future activities; furthermore, previous or current relationships do not imply consent to future sexual acts. A person always retains the right to revoke consent at any time during a sexual act. In addition, the state of Georgia has designated a minimum age of 16 under which a person cannot give “consent.”

An individual cannot consent who is:

- Obviously incapacitated by any drug or intoxicant
- Who has been purposely compelled by force, threat of force or deception
- Who is unaware the act is being committed
• Whose mental ability to consent or resist is obviously impaired because of mental or physical condition
• Who is coerced by supervisory or disciplinary authority

While all crimes cannot be prevented, there are some steps that you can take to reduce the chance you may become a victim.

• Don't leave your beverage unattended or accept a drink from an open container.
• When you go to a party, go with a group of friends. Arrive together, watch out for each other and leave together.
• Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
• Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't know or trust.
• Think about the level of intimacy you want in a relationship, and clearly state your limits.
• Download RAVE GUARDIAN, and use it if you need police assistance.
• Do not hesitate to call or activate a RAVE Guardian app to notify the GC Police. We are here to assist you.

If you are a victim of a sexual assault, call 478-445-4400 or activate the RAVE Guardian App.

• Find a safe environment - anywhere away from the attacker. Ask a trusted friend to stay with you for moral support.

• Preserve evidence of the attack - don't bathe or brush your teeth. Write down all the details you can recall about the attack and the attacker.

• Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline, operated by RAINN, for free, confidential counseling, 24 hours a day: 1-800-656-HOPE.

• Get medical attention. Even with no physical injuries, it is important to determine the risks of STDs and pregnancy. To preserve forensic evidence, ask the hospital to conduct a rape kit exam.

• If you suspect you may have been drugged, ask that a urine sample be collected. The sample will need to be analyzed later on by a forensic lab.

• Remember it wasn't your fault.

• Know that it's never too late to call. Even if the attack happened years ago, the National Sexual Assault Hotline can still help. Many victims do not realize they need help until months or years later.

On campus you can contact the Women's Resource Center 478-445-8156, Counseling Services 478-445-5331 or Public Safety 478-445-4400