Campus Crime Alert--Reported Sexual Assault

To: The Georgia College Community  
From: Scott Beckner, Director of Public Safety  
Date: 1/21/2016

You are receiving this Campus Crime Alert as part of Georgia College’s commitment to provide campus crime information, in compliance with the “Timely Notice” provisions of the federal Clery Act (Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act). The Department of Public Safety for Georgia College is giving notice of safety advice relating to the following reported incident.

On Jan. 20, 2016, at approximately 2:20 p.m., Public Safety was notified by a Georgia College official of a possible sexual assault. The sexual assault was reported to have occurred in a main campus residence hall during the late night hours of Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. Prior to the assault, the female victim and the suspect were at a bar in downtown Milledgeville. At this time, the male offender is unknown, and the case remains open.

Sexual assault is never the fault of the victim. 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.

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, here are some suggestions everyone may want to consider:

• Make sure you have consent. Consent is a clear and freely given yes, not the absence of a no.
• People who are incapacitated by alcohol or drugs cannot give consent.
• Practice being assertive about your boundaries.
• 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.
• Trust your instincts. If you feel uneasy or sense something is wrong, call for assistance.
• Think about the level of intimacy you want in a relationship, and clearly state your limits.
• Do not hesitate to call or activate a RAVE Guardian app to notify the GC Police. We are here to assist you.
• Be active in supporting a safe and respectful community. If you see others engaging in disrespectful or inappropriate actions, speak up and get involved, or contact someone else to assist.

If you’ve been sexually assaulted, tell someone – there are resources available to help you. Please visit http://www.gcsu.edu/titleix/where-find-help to know your on-campus reporting options. Additional considerations:

• Find a safe environment - anywhere away from the attacker. Ask a trusted friend to stay with you for moral support.
• 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 sexual assault examination kit.
• 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.
• 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.
• On campus you can contact the Women's Center 478-445-8156, Counseling Services 478-445-5331 or Public Safety 478-445-4400

For more information on the Clery Act, and why you’re receiving this federally mandated Campus Crime Alert, please visit www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus.html.