Making Campuses Safer

How your response to victims can make a critical difference

Jill McCluskey
Lauren McCluskey

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018, on the University of Utah campus by a man she briefly dated. We must all take actions to ensure that this never happens again.
Lauren’s Promise

“I will listen & believe you if someone is threatening you”
Lauren McCluskey Foundation
Strategic Initiatives for Campus Safety

1. Increase Awareness of the Seriousness of Dating Violence and Stalking
2. Expand the Adoption of Lauren’s Promise
3. Create a Best Practices Blueprint for Effective Response
4. Develop and Distribute a Campus Safety Score
5. Share Resources to Strengthen Dating Violence and Stalking Laws
What did we learn from Lauren’s Case?

• Coordination and communication are needed. **Silos**
  • University Housing didn’t communicate with police. Campus security didn’t communicate with campus police. Police didn’t communicate across jurisdictions. To our knowledge, no information was shared between counseling and the police.

• Timely responses are needed.
  • If someone takes days off, a back-up person needs to cover the cases and respond with urgency to all communications.

• Access to a victim advocate should be offered.
  • A victim advocate might have helped her get a restraining order and put protections in place so that he couldn’t get into her building.

• The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) should be used.
  • It would have identified Lauren as at risk for domestic violence homicide.

• The culture must be one in which the police believe women.
  • Research shows that when there are more female officers, women are more likely to report crimes.
Campus Safety Bill of Rights

1. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated.
2. If victims report sexual harassment, threats, or violence, it will be documented, reported, investigated, and responded to in a timely manner.
3. Victims of sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking will be treated with respect and dignity, which includes being interviewed in a private room.
4. Campus police will direct victims to resources and assistance, including university counseling and other resources devoted to assisting victims and victim’s advocates.
5. Campus housing staff will respond and act within 24 hours of a reported concerns of sexual harassment and/or violence and will report concerns to campus police.
6. Victims have the right to ban someone who is threatening or harassing them from trespassing on their campus living arrangement/building.
Principles for responding to victims

1. Comply with criminal laws and civil rights codes
2. Respond sensitively to victim disclosures—do not blame the victim.
3. Listen to victims, be accountable for mistakes, and apologize when appropriate.
4. Cherish the whistleblower who raises uncomfortable truths. Upon notification of a problem, take steps to correct it.
5. Engage in self-study—how can you do better?
6. Conduct anonymous surveys
7. Ensure leadership is educated about research on sexual violence and related trauma
8. Be transparent about data and policy
9. Use the power of your university to address the societal problem.
10. Commit resources to steps 1 through 9.

(Source: Floyd, J. 2018. “When sexual assault victims speak out, their institutions often betray them.” The Conversation)
Challenge for Campus Police: Gaining Trust
Law Enforcement Promise

I will treat you with respect and dignity, investigate with urgency, and protect you if someone is threatening you.
How can we use these ideas to create incentives for universities to be safer?

• Create a campus safety score/ranking.
• Rankings can incentivize universities to adopt best practices, procedures, & policies.
• Students want to attend a higher ranked university.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inputs: Policies &amp; Procedures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinated Campus Response</td>
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<td>Police Training and Procedures</td>
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<td>Community Input/Transparency</td>
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<td>Campus Climate</td>
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Best Practices: Coordinated Campus Response (CCR)

• The response is not limited to campus police. It includes, housing, other police jurisdictions, professors, and counseling.
• The housing team failed in Zhifan Dong’s case.
• Lauren saw her U counselor twice after breaking up with her murderer.
  • On Oct. 15 at 10:30 am and she started calling a police officer at 11:31 am,
  • On Oct. 22 at 11:00 am, and she called the police officer at 11:55 am.
  • Did she call the police from the counselor’s office? What is the best practice if Lauren told the counselor about her concerns?
• Counseling records are sealed. We are unable to learn from Lauren’s case.
• There is no accountability on the counselor’s side.
Outcomes Measures: Data

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<tr>
<th>Campus Safety Data</th>
<th>Surrounding neighborhood Crime Data</th>
<th>Student perceptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Clery Act</td>
<td>• FBI Crime Data</td>
<td>• Awareness of resources</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concerns:</strong> lagged data; under-reported; universities may misclassify</td>
<td>• Consider: background crime is mitigated by policies, procedures, and climate</td>
<td>• Trust in the campus police</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>• Perceptions of safety</td>
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<td>• Collected via surveys</td>
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Keeping it Honest

• There is a need for a third-party auditing system to verify that data is reported and correctly classified.
• This rewards universities for correctly reporting.
• This builds trust with students and their parents.
Help us with what’s next!
Share your ideas – Wisdom of Crowds

We have set up an online forum to submit ideas.
laurenmccluskey.org
Thank you to those who are working on the Campus Safety Score.

- President Randall’s team, U. of Utah
- Experts in rankings, police, violence prevention
- Mark Duggan at Stanford University
- Focused on economics and data sources.
- Ron Mittelhammer (Economics), Michael Gaffney (Public Safety; Policy) WSU
- Conducting a student survey; lit review
Questions?