



July 2018

**Dear Parents and Families,**

I hope this finds you well and enjoying your summer. If you are the parent or family member of an incoming student – *welcome to the Tufts community!* My colleagues and I are so excited to meet you and your student this fall.

My role at Tufts is Director of the [Center for Awareness, Resources and Education \(CARE\)](#). CARE's mission has three main components: 1) to provide education and outreach related to sexual misconduct prevention, 2) to offer confidential support to students with questions or concerns about sexual misconduct or sexual health, and 3) to facilitate accommodations and other forms of support. We have [2 full-time, confidential staff members](#) in the CARE office who provide services and resources. We also have 4 student coordinators and approximately 35 other students who work with us on a variety of programs and initiatives. Our professional staff and student leaders work closely with many different departments across campus to help make Tufts a safe, healthy, and engaging place to learn and grow.

All incoming students are introduced to both CARE and the [Office of Equal Opportunity \(OEO\)](#) the summer before they matriculate. Three programs engage new students in healthy, developmental conversations about consent and relationships, as well as introduce the University's [Sexual Misconduct Policy and Process](#). Our goal is to equip students with the information they need to make healthy choices throughout their Tufts years and understand both University policy and the norms our community values.

Last academic year, CARE completed almost 60 educational and awareness programs and reached approximately 1,500 students. (We also reach about 500 students per month via social media.) The goal of each of our programs is to inform, educate, and help students learn the language of consent, respect, human rights, and gender equity. The content of our programs fits into three broad categories:

**1) Sexual Misconduct:** We examine the definition of sexual misconduct in [Tufts' Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) and discuss what consent looks like using both Tufts-specific and national examples and statistics. With such a diverse population at Tufts, we recognize that students arrive to campus with varying ideas about sex and relationships. To unify our campus, CARE provides sessions that explain Tufts' expectations and how we all have a part to play in upholding them.

**2) Bystander Intervention:** We provide a national [Green Dot Bystander Intervention](#) program that has been tailored for the Tufts community. Proactively, we focus on what members of the Tufts community can do to promote a campus climate that prevents sexual misconduct and fosters care, respect, and consent. Reactively, we provide a skills-based workshop that provides students with a list of options for interrupting misconduct.

**3) Sex Health:** CARE provides all Tufts students with programming on [sexual health](#) that is comprehensive, skills-based, and grounded in a framework of human rights and gender equity. We know that students come to Tufts with various levels of sex-health education. (Only 25% of the Class of 2022 will come from states where medically accurate sex education is mandated.) Our goal is to make sure that all Tufts students have a healthy understanding of consent, boundaries, communication, and respect.

The majority of CARE's programming is based on requests from students and student groups, including groups from Athletics and Greek Life. While we are inspired by national trends, we pride ourselves on creative, innovative programming that fits each group we're working with. We focus on meeting the needs of our community and consciously adjust to an ever-changing social environment.

My greatest privilege as the Director of CARE is helping students effectively create a safe and respectful campus culture simply by talking with them. What is it like at Tufts socially? How do students make friends? What are the social pressures on campus? What is "hooking up," "ghosting," "zombeeing," etc? While these conversations range from hilarious to heartbreaking, they are always informative, and they improve my ability to help every Tufts student. Having frank conversations allows me to reduce the obstacles for students seeking help and design authentic programs for our entire community.

I'm really looking forward to the fall and know CARE will have its best year yet with increased programming and student participation. I encourage you to [reach out to us](#) if you ever have questions or concerns. Please also feel

free to remind anyone in need of services that we are here and welcome all opportunities to listen and provide support.

Sincerely,

**Alexandra Donovan**  
**Director, CARE**