



The Title IX Office | Photo by Huffington Post | April 23rd - April 27th, 2018

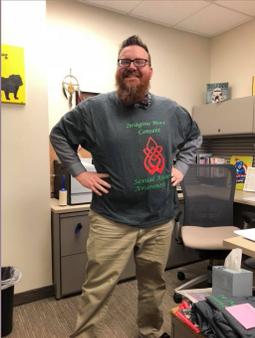
## GENERAL INFO

The staff at the Ferris State University Title IX Office is hosting this event as the finale for Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2018.

To ensure that all attendees are connected to any resources they may need, we have staffed the gallery with a trained volunteer at all times and we have also supplied physical resources that can be taken home.

The Title IX Office has also been fortunate enough to partner with WISE in Big Rapids to supply clothes and serve as a resource for many of our survivors.

The clothes displayed were not the physical outfits worn by survivors, but replicas to portray the attire.



## SELF CARE

As Title IX Staff and advocates, we understand that this gallery can be very triggering for survivors and supporters of survivors, therefore, we encourage you to practice self-care.

Some of our favorite self-care practices include:

- Going for a walk
- Getting some coffee
- Listening to calming music

We also encourage you to use some of our resources, take one of our free self-care coloring books, and talk to our volunteers.

## VOLUNTEERS

We have so many wonderful volunteers signed up to be designated Support People throughout the



week. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to them! Any major concerns with the event as a whole should be brought to the Title IX Office. Our volunteers are mainly students and are not responsible for overall issues of the event. You can call the Title IX Office at 231.591.2088.

## OTHER RESOURCES

**Kevin Carmody, Title IX Coordinator**  
231.591.2088  
KevinCarmody.ferris.edu

**WISE, Big Rapids**  
231.796.6600  
wiseagainstviolence.org

**Birkam Personal Counseling Center**  
231.591.5968

**S.A.N.E. (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program), Big Rapids**  
231.796.8691  
spectrumhealth.org/bigrapids

**Ferris Department of Public Safety**  
231.591.5000

**Campus Needs You**  
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

# HISTORY

The "What Were You Wearing?" Survivor Art Installation first premiered at the University of Arkansas in 2014 from March 31st to April 4th. The story began on May 24th, 2013, when Dr. Mary Wyandt-Hiebert and Ms. Jen Brockman attended a conference hosted by the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault in Little Rock, Arkansas. At the conference, Dr. Wyandt-Hiebert and Ms. Brockman read the poem "What I Was Wearing" written by Dr. Mary Simmerling in 20015.

The pair was deeply moved by the poem and they began brainstorming ways to visually represent the poem as an installation piece. In the summer of 2013, they contacted Dr. Simmerling for permission to use the piece.

By September of 2013, student-survivors at the University of Arkansas began to voluntarily share brief descriptions of what they were wearing when they experienced sexual violence. The original installation clothing matching these descriptions was donated by Peact at Home Thrift Store in Fayetteville, Arkansas.



# INTENT



This installation is meant to challenge rape myths regarding the clothes a victim was wearing at the time of their assault. Some people believe that the act of dressing provocatively is the cause of the sexual assault, but as you can see from this installation, that belief simply isn't true.

There are also rape myths that claim that men cannot be victims of sexual assault. As you can see in this installation from the masculine outfits, people of all genders and sexualities can be victims of sexual assault.

We encourage all attendees to remember that a sexual assault is never the victim's fault. If a survivor comes to you to disclose their story, never ask "What Were You Wearing?" in response.

# SIMILAR PROJECTS

**Denim Day (1999)**  
[www.dvsac.org/denim-day](http://www.dvsac.org/denim-day)

**Jasmeen Patheja (2004)**  
[www.blog.blanknoise.org](http://www.blog.blanknoise.org)

**Salamishah Tillet (2011)**  
[www.thenation.com/article/what-wear-slutwalk](http://www.thenation.com/article/what-wear-slutwalk)

**Christine Fox (2014)**  
[www.oxjane.com/issue/i-am-steenfox-and-i-wrote-the-tweet-what-were-you-wearing](http://www.oxjane.com/issue/i-am-steenfox-and-i-wrote-the-tweet-what-were-you-wearing)

**Roy Banwell (2015)**  
[www.stillnotaskingforit.org](http://www.stillnotaskingforit.org)

**Katherine Cambareri (2016)**  
[www.katcphoto.com/well-what-were-you-wearing.html](http://www.katcphoto.com/well-what-were-you-wearing.html)