Take Back the Night Rally & March

February 13, 2015

Dear Supervisor Brown,

The Take Back the Night Committee of Womanspace invites you to participate in the twenty-sixth annual Take Back the Night Rally and March to be held on Thursday, March 26, during Women's Month 2015 at Virginia Tech. The purpose of this rally and candlelight march is to bring our community together to protest gender-based violence and to promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that perpetuate this violence. Organizers encourage everyone to take an active role in changing our society -- a society in which many have reason to fear being out alone, especially at night.

Participants will gather at the outdoor stage on Henderson Lawn at Virginia Tech between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The rally will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will feature speakers from both the campus and the local community. The march will step off at 7:30 p.m., is accessible for persons with disabilities, and will conclude at the outdoor stage for a closing celebration. (The rain location is Haymarket Theatre in Squires Student Center.)

Take Back the Night events began in the 1970s and have been organized throughout the world. In 1978, a Take Back the Night march was held in San Francisco; over 5,000 women from 30 states participated. In Virginia, Take Back the Night marches have been held in Richmond and Charlottesville, and at Hollins University, Radford University, and Roanoke College; March 26 is the twenty-sixth annual Take Back the Night at Virginia Tech. Marchers call attention to gender-based violence--sexual harassment, misogyny, rape, and murder. This violence affects both individuals in the community and the community as a whole.

People of all genders and ages are encouraged to march, either as individuals or as part of a group. Participants are invited to bring candles and/or flashlights, and organizations are invited to bring signs or a group banner in support of Take Back the Night.

Sponsoring organizations include AdvanceVT; Coalition for Justice; Cranwell International Center; Graduate Student Assembly; Help Save the Next Girl; HokiePRIDE; League of Women Voters of Montgomery County; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Faculty and Staff Caucus; Montgomery County NOW; Multicultural Programs and Services; Office for Diversity and Inclusion; Office of the Dean of Students; Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs; Raft Crisis Hotline; Residence Hall Federation; Sexual Assault and Violence Education by Students (SAVES); Sexual Violence Prevention Council; Student Power Network; Virginia Tech Interfaith Council; VT Engage, Wesley—a United Campus Ministry; Womanspace; Women's and Gender Studies Program; Women's Center at Virginia Tech; Women's Month 2015 Advisory Committee; Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley; and YMCA.

If you are able to attend the rally, please notify us so that we can acknowledge your presence from the podium. For more information, please contact Susan Anderson at 540-951-2013 (h), 540-231-8041 (w), or anderson@math.vt.edu.

In solidarity,

Susan Anderson
Faculty Advisor
Womanspace, c/o Anderson
Department of Mathematics 0123
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Nikki Clemons
Co-Coordinator

Claire Kelling
Co-Coordinator