Project Description
The Women’s Resource Center (WRC) at the University of Arizona is an inclusive on-campus student center which strives to create change on campus in response to sexism and misogyny, doing social justice work at the intersection of many identities such as sex, gender identity, gender expression, race, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and ability. In the national context, 1 in 4 women are sexually assaulted on college campuses. In comparison to the earnings of a white man, Latina women earn 54 cents on the dollar, African American women earn 63 cents on the dollar and white women earn 80 cents to the dollar. Now more than ever, our campus needs a space that provides educational outreach and support for gender equity. We are a place on campus where students engage in extraordinary post-classroom learning experiences. Gender, sexuality, social justice, feminism, masculinity, equity, consent, mindful leadership—we are about providing a space for students to grapple with these important issues in response to real-time world events, and then providing support for putting their ideas into practice. When a student plugs in to the WRC, their opportunity for practical engagement is realized, their sense of self deepened, and their invitation to community expanded. In line with the SAEM mission, we are an innovative campus life program, we work to stay ahead of the curve, and we continuously assess our impact.

Although the WRC reaches over ten thousand students each year with our cutting-edge sexual assault prevention programs, our feminist community building, our community-campus collaborations, and our Feminist Pharmacy, it is our student leadership and professional development programs of which we are the proudest (Student Priorities: career-based experiential learning and leadership opportunities; on-campus job opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students). Our interns, peer educators, and club members make the WRC feel like a home on campus for countless other students, they host programs and workshops that engage our campus beyond the classroom, they maintain the beloved Feminist Pharmacy (which supplies products such as condoms, pregnancy tests, tampons, etc. at no cost to students!), and they provide rapid response activism to controversial incidents on our campus and within the community. FORCE interns and SPEAC peer educators expand their career-related opportunities by developing and implementing programming alongside community members such as the Slutwalk and the Tucson Take Back the Night (Student Priority: Expand Career-related opportunities). And all of this is thanks to the Student Services Fee Advisory Board (SSFAB). Because the WRC is not institutionally-funded, we rely on student commitment to having a space such as the WRC on our campus. It is because of the SSFAB that we have been able to exist and grow!

And grow we have. We’ve gone from a siloed programming center (literally, a 17’x13’ cubicle) of 1 staff, 1 GA and 12 interns hosting 20 events for 1748 students our first year – to a multicultural, multi-ethnic community of 3 staff, 4 GAs, 4 student directors, and 1 graphic designer, with dozens of club members, and 15 peer educators and 15 interns who host over 100 programs, events, and workshops each year, serving over 10,000 students.

Thanks to the support of the SSFAB, over 200 interns and peer educators have benefitted from professional and personal development with the WRC – 50% of whom stayed with their WRC program for a year or longer! With continued funding, the WRC can maintain and expand its important work - student internship and employment opportunities, graduate employment and professional development opportunities, and campus engagement.

Undergraduate Student Impact
The WRC impacts over ten thousand students each year! In summary, here’s how we do it:

- The WRC internship FORCE and our paid peer-educator program SPEAC both provide students with an opportunity for serious professional development, learning the ropes of social justice work and innovative, popular student programming (Student Priorities: career-based experiential learning and leadership opportunities; on-campus job opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students; expanded career-related opportunities). However, these programs are not merely a professional opportunity for students; they also provide community and a place for students to feel at home among like-minded people.

“The FORCE internship has been the best thing that has happened to me while at the U of A. It has been as much of an educational experience as any of my classes, and through the internship I feel like a more well rounded student and feminist.” —WRC Intern
friends. The WRC intern and peer educator retention rate is nearly 100% each Spring semester – this is the primary measure of our success!

• Through our cutting edge sexual assault prevention programs the WRC peer educators were able to train over 1700 students in this past fall semester alone in both the Residence Halls and Greek Organizations affecting important change on campus with attitudes about sexual assault. In our Residence Hall programs during the first three weeks of the Fall 2017 semester, we saw a 5% increase in students who believe it is their responsibility to speak up when someone in their circle of friends is making sexually aggressive comments, and a nearly 8% increase in students who feel confident in their ability to step up and get involved in a situation where someone needs help. (See attached supplemental information for greater detail!)

• And last, but not least, the WRC offers free resources to students! Our Feminist Pharmacy serves approximately two thousand students each semester with free personal items, from condoms and tampons, to pregnancy tests and pads. The WRC is also a great space for working, eating lunch, hanging out, or to reserve as meeting space for other student groups. In so many ways, we are here to meet the needs of UA students!

Graduate Student Impact
The WRC offers its four Graduate Assistants the opportunity to earn compensation while pursuing a graduate degree, receive weekly mentoring from a Student Affairs professional, foster career connections with some of Tucson’s most significant business people, attend a conference through professional development funds, and work on some of the nation’s most cutting edge sexual assault prevention and gender equity programs (Student Priority: funding for graduate student academic travel, presentations, and professional development). Additionally, because the WRC is administratively housed under the Dean of Students Office, the WRC GAs also participate in the DOS Graduate Professional Program, which provides even more comprehensive Student Affairs training as well as the support of a Graduate Student cohort.

Assessment
The WRC administers student evaluations to participants at all events in the month of March each year, because of the diverse and large amount of programs held during Women’s Herstory Month. With all four tiers of our sexual assault prevention programming, we do retrospective surveys that are analyzed for statistical significance and trends. For new members of Greek organizations, we do a pre-test at their first workshop with us, and a post-test at the end of their second semester, to track behavioral and attitudinal changes. Additionally, all interns and staff are provided the opportunity to give anonymous feedback, both quantitative and qualitative, regarding their work, program, events, interactions, the support of staff, and the WRC space. Through these thorough assessment tools, developed in collaboration with Student Affairs Assessment and Research, and analyzed by our doctoral level graduate assistants, we amend our programs and quickly respond to needs. This is what makes our programs, especially our sexual assault prevention work, so successful!

Longevity
UA Administration has not institutionally funded the work of the WRC, as it has the other five cultural and resource centers. However, the WRC is a reality because of the commitment and passion of SSFAB members, and their commitment to having a women’s center on our campus. The good news is that in recent years, there has been movement by Administration to fund our work. In collaboration with a grant from Arizona Department of Health Services to support our sexual assault prevention work, the Dean of Students Office has committed additional funds to the Operations of that program. And significantly, as a result of the MSUA demands, the central administration provided permanent funding for a Coordinator of the WRC, along with operations funding to support her position. We are optimistic that, between growing institutional support and future grants (such as a CDC grant that we are applying for this Spring), that our SSF ask will continue to shrink with each application!