

# Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas

Action Plan for Compliance with Act 943 of 2015

Addressing Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention  
Among College Students



After the passage of Act 943 of 2015, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas (PCCUA) began planning ways to meet the letter and spirit of the Act, and provide unplanned pregnancy prevention education to our students.

We brought together personnel from different departments on campus – Student Success, Student Activities, Nursing, etc. to discuss ways we could reach students, and the type of information we needed to provide.

We attended state-wide meetings led by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and also had a member of our Nursing department on the Task Force that met periodically to discuss best practices and compliance with the Act. This Task Force also helped in the production of a Pregnancy Prevention Video that colleges and universities could use to engage students and spark conversation between partners about smart decision making regarding birth control and/or abstinence.

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After several discussions at PCCUA, we concluded that the best way to reach the most students was through our mandatory orientation sessions held before the semester begins. This orientation is mandatory for students taking six (6) or more hours on any of our three campuses – De Witt, Helena-West Helena, and Stuttgart. We offer both day and evening sessions to accommodate students that might have conflicts. For Fall 2016, over seventy-five percent of all our college students participated in mandatory orientation. For Fall 2017, over seventy-eight percent participated, and in Fall 2018, nearly seventy-four percent participated.

During orientation, we have a special session dedicated to pregnancy prevention awareness. The session includes:

- Administering a survey asking if the students had thought about the impact that pregnancy may have on their ability to begin, continue, or complete a college degree (at the beginning of the session)
- A general overview of prevention and unplanned pregnancy statistics among older teens
- Showing the Pregnancy Prevention video located at [www.youractionplanar.com](http://www.youractionplanar.com)
- A presentation by members of the local health departments (Phillips County and Arkansas County) describing the services they provide, including information on family planning, birth control, etc.

In addition, brochures from the local health departments were included in each student's orientation packet, as well as a hand-out highlighting the Pregnancy Prevention Video and links to the video, including a closed-caption option.

After the session, students were administered another survey that asked if the information provided had made them think more about the impact of pregnancy on their education. The overwhelming majority answered yes.

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We believe our outreach to the students during mandatory orientation was successful. We were able to provide information about and bring awareness to the topics that Act 943 hoped to address. We plan to continue to include a session on those topics during our mandatory orientations in the future. In

addition, we will participate in any state-wide meetings, and collaborate with other colleges and universities to develop best practices that might be used to provide information to students.

For more information, please contact:

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