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2011.11.07

### Federal grant takes on violence against women



Logo courtesy of Jefferson College of Health Sciences

A federal three-year grant for \$240,750 was recently awarded to Jefferson College of Health Sciences for its work to address violence against women.

The three year grant will focus not only on improving safety of its student population, but also on the larger effort of educating health care workers and the community about responding to violence against women.

Jefferson College, which is owned by Carilion Clinic, first received a \$235,201 from the U.S. Department of Justice in 2008 to start its Violence Can End, or VOICE, Program. The latest grant is a renewal of that initial grant.

To date VOICE has focused on organizing a number of educational efforts to improve how female victims of physical and sexual violence are treated. Those efforts include, providing ongoing training to the College's staff who deal with situations involving violence against women, developing online resources and installing cameras, emergency phones and security doors on the college's campus located inside Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital.

Sarah Higginbotham, the VOICE coordinator at Jefferson College, said that her goal with the new grant will be to continue to focus on training health care workers on how to identify and help victims of violence.

She said that often times even though injuries and health problems are documented, health care providers do not ask about violence or intervene. She pointed me to one study that found that only 6 percent of physicians ask their patients about possible domestic violence, but 88 percent admitted they knew they had female patients who had been abused.

“One of main focuses [of the grant] is to train providers on ways to recognize and respond to victims of violence,” she said.

Additionally the grant will be used to continue to improve the safety of the college's students by looking at installing cameras, lighting and, emergency phones along South Jefferson Street. That's because about 150 students are currently living in the newly renovated Patrick Henry.



Posted at 05:00 by Sarah Jones | Category: [Carilion Clinic](#), [Health education](#), [Public health](#), [Your health](#) | No Comments

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## About this blog

Med Beat covers medical issues, research and the business side of the health care industry, as reported by Sarah Bruyn Jones, who covers the business of medicine in Southwest Virginia for The Roanoke Times.

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