

10-15-1998

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/15/1998 - Eiu Plans Events To Educate Students, Community About Alcohol.pdf" (1998). 1998. 303.

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98-408

October 15, 1998

For Immediate Release:

EIU PLANS EVENTS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS, COMMUNITY ABOUT ALCOHOL

CHARLESTON -- Alcohol consumption is quite popular on most college campuses and very often students don't always know "when to say when."

Eastern Illinois University's Health Education Resource Center (HERC) has devoted an entire week -- National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week -- to make students and the general public aware of the role alcohol plays in their life. Through a series of free events planned from Sunday, Oct. 18, to Saturday, Oct. 24, HERC will educate individuals on how to make better and healthier lifestyle decisions when it comes to alcohol consumption.

"I think (these events) will show that the students and campus are concerned about the welfare of those who do drink," said Sarah Kernagis, health education coordinator. "(We) hope to help individuals make better choices about their alcohol consumption and be aware of the responsibilities of their behavior when they do drink."

"Sexual Assault and Alcohol," sponsored by Eastern's Sociology Club, will be presented at 7 p.m. Monday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. EIU's Health Service will conduct a panel discussion concerning Charleston's bar age restrictions at 7:30 p.m. in Lumpkin Hall 122.

"Alcohol and Relationships," sponsored by Eastern's Counseling Center, begins

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at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the University Union's Effingham Room and will focus on how alcohol consumption can affect one's relationship with their loved ones.

A Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) victim panel, sponsored by EIU's Health Service, will also begin at 7 p.m. in the Union's Rathskellar. Parents and/or students from the area will speak about how a drunk driver took the life of a loved one. Convicted DUI offenders may speak to students about the dangers of getting behind the wheel after drinking.

This discussion will be followed by an "I Fought the Law" dance, co-sponsored by the University Police Department, the Fraternal Order of Police and Eta Sigma Gamma.

"Our purpose is to have a good time while try to educate some people about alcohol," said Lt. Chris Stone of the UPD.

The dance, featuring DJ Kate Slovinski, is also expected to include prizes and games including Jeopardy-type questions and "arrests." Stone stressed that the dance is open to the Charleston area community, as well as to EIU students.

Other NCAAW events scheduled to take place throughout the week include additional presentations concerning the dangers of alcohol, a fatal vision obstacle course and a "Mocktail competition."