



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Colorado Department of Law  
Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman

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### **AG Coffman Partners with Colorado Colleges and Universities to Provide Critical Sexual Assault Prevention Education for Students**

**PUEBLO-** Today, Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman and students and educators from Pueblo Community College, Lamar Community College, Trinidad State Junior College, and Colorado State University-Pueblo joined together to launch a new program that will provide critical sexual assault prevention education to colleges and universities across Colorado. Through funding provided by the Attorney General's Office, the *Haven-Understanding Sexual Assault<sup>TM</sup>* program created by EverFi Inc., will be provided at no cost to students at six higher education institutions including: Colorado State University-Ft. Collins, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Lamar Community College, Otero Junior College, Pueblo Community College, and Trinidad State Junior College.

The *Haven* online training program is focused on preventing sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking -- critical issues impacting countless college students across the country. This year, EverFi will be supporting 1,300 colleges and universities, reaching over 5 million students and employees nationwide.

"The statistics tell us that more than 20% of women in college will be the victims of sexual assault," said Attorney General Cynthia Coffman. "That is a staggering number of women whose lives are forever impacted. We must take a proactive approach by empowering young women and men in our State to stop sexual assault before it happens. That is why I am proud to provide this opportunity for students on our campuses."

Built in collaboration with leading researchers, prevention professionals, and legal experts, *Haven* empowers students to create safe, healthy campuses while helping institutions comply with federal training mandates. The course is interactive, and customized to create a tailored, campus-specific experience that connects students with essential resources.

"Sexual assault can have lasting, harmful effects on victims," said Brie Franklin, Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA). "Prevention efforts should focus on creating safe environments in which sexual assault is not acceptable and

perpetrators are held accountable. Understanding what constitutes consent, and equipping students with skills such as how to intervene in a situation that doesn't seem right, are key components of sexual assault prevention programming."

During today's event, the Attorney General, Pueblo Community College President Dr. Patty Erjavec, Lamar Community College President Dr. Linda Lujan, representatives from Trinidad State Junior College and Colorado State University-Pueblo, and student leaders offered remarks about the importance of prevention education, and shared their commitment to providing students with a safe campus environment as well as giving them the tools they need to protect themselves and others in their off-campus life.

"The safety and well-being of our students is paramount for us here at Pueblo Community College," said Pueblo Community College President Dr. Patty Erjavec. "The ability to offer the Haven teaching and learning experience, as provided by the Attorney General of Colorado, is an invaluable gift of awareness to our students. It is obvious by the tremendous response from our students that this is an important element of their academic experience, as well."

In addition to the Haven program, the Attorney General and EverFi are also providing the Sexual Assault Diagnostic Inventory Assessment (SADI) to as many as 12 Colorado Colleges and Universities. The SADI is an 80-item assessment that is designed to assist higher education institutions in comprehensively assessing violence prevention efforts on campus. Upon completion, institutions receive specific insights into what's working well, areas in which improvements can be made, and anonymous aggregate information that benchmarks how institutions compare to other participating schools nationwide.

"Lamar Community College is honored to have been selected as one of the institutions to receive this funding," said Dr. Linda Lujan, President, Lamar Community College. "If we can proactively educate students about sexual assault and substance abuse prevention we equip them with important knowledge and tools to improve their college experience."

The Colorado Attorney General's Office is committed to being an active partner in preventing sexual assault and improving services for victims. This effort is led by the Office of Community Engagement, which fosters partnerships across the state on behalf of the Attorney General on a variety of public safety and consumer protection issues.

Learn more about the EverFi programs at [www.everfi.com](http://www.everfi.com)

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