

# Dr. Gordon Gee - CCAFV Video “The Workplace Responds to Family Violence” – Video Transcript

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The Ohio State University is an enormous educational platform with a global reach. Unfortunately, the reach of domestic violence and abuse is equally broad – affecting people of all economic circumstances and education levels.

That is why I am committed to continuing and expanding the University’s innovative programs designed to combat domestic violence in the lives of our 60,000 students and 30,000 faculty and staff members.

Our student-centered educational campaign – called “It’s Abuse” – is a peer-to-peer effort that targets all Ohio State students. Working with the Web, pod casts, blogs and e-mail, “It’s Abuse” educates students on the signs of relationship abuse through tools that are familiar to them. Students learn how to get help, and they are shown what a healthy relationship looks like — one based on mutual respect.

To reinforce these messages, the University also sponsors high-profile events aimed at students. Earlier this month, for example, Archie Griffin led an “It’s Abuse” rally on campus that helped spread the word that relationship violence robs individuals not only of their basic rights, but also of their fundamental human dignity.

We are optimistic that the message is getting through. During the past school year, several thousand students signed a pledge against relationship abuse and joined the “It’s Abuse” movement.

Ohio State provides several programs to educate faculty and staff about family violence and to help those directly affected by it. Through our “Recognize and Refer” campaign, more than 200 faculty and staff members have been taught to recognize signs of abuse, and to refer colleagues and students for appropriate help.

We are amplifying existing support provided through our Employee Assistance Program and the campus counseling center. Customized materials include a video, posters, and information cards that direct victims and abusers to campus and community resources.

Ohio State’s global presence carries with it an enormous responsibility -- around the world and in our own backyard. Our response to relationship abuse and family violence is just one part of it. I am proud of our work to combat family violence, and I pledge to continue it.