

GREEN DOTS IN THE COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

● The Dignity of Every Person

“Respect and love for self include making personal, social and academic decisions that preserve and improve one’s own dignity and well-being.”

Many sexual violence prevention programs focus on the perpetrator or victim. This is divisive, in that many people do not identify with either of these categories. But everyone is a bystander. Everyone can imagine themselves witnessing an interaction that they know is not okay or safe. Green Dot is inclusive to every member of our community through their role as the bystander. Only by being an intervening bystander when you notice violence can you truly preserve and improve your own and others’ well-being.

● Community is Essential for Learning

“Genuine community requires maturity, commitment, self-sacrifice and hard work.”

In order for true community to be achieved, every person must feel ownership over maintaining the community we create. Green Dot focuses on two main components: ownership of the issue and the skills to do something. Every person needs to feel called to care for this community in order for our learning and living community to be a safe one. Green Dot creates this calling and encourages everyone to do their part to make our community stronger.

● The Common Good

“The common good is ‘the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily’.”

A key component of the Green Dot initiative is that “No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something.” No one can obtain the common good or end sexual violence alone. The goals are simply too big. But for us to accomplish either, everyone has to be involved. Everyone has to do *something* toward reaching our goals. And slowly, one step and one dot at a time, we might just end sexual violence and achieve the common good.

● Take Responsibility for Self & Community

“Speak up when you witness ... violence ... and behaviors that harm or demean people and damage community.”

In an ideal world, this statement would go without saying. But in our reality, where violence has become an epidemic and each of us has personal barriers that stand in our way of intervening every single time we see something concerning, taking action is harder than it might seem. Green Dot teaches students *how* to speak up through technique, skill building, and practice.