

# WRC TODAY

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Women's Resource Center Newsletter



# Our Year in Review

At the Women's Resource Center we seek to educate and engage with the campus community about gender justice and feminism, upholding our mission of honoring gender as a central identity and engaging in critical women's and gender issues, while challenging systems of inequity and advocating for change at the University of Northern Colorado.

This past academic year we hosted a multitude of events that spoke directly to our mission. One of our biggest events of the year was our Annual Conference on Gender Justice and Feminism, in which the UNC community was invited to an all-day learning event where they attended different breakout sessions covering topics like sexism and misogyny in the 2016 election, activism and self-care, pregnancy and parenting support, and much more. We also held bi-weekly Consciousness Raising sessions for students, film screenings, guest speakers, and panel discussions. We established a new lactation space in the Gender & Sexuality Resource Center, while also engaging our campus through our 'Because Lactating Looks Like This...' campaign.

The Women's Resource Center remains dedicated to creating a space on campus in which students can discuss their experiences with gender. As part of the 7-Strong Cultural and Resource Centers, we welcome students in their entirety, and have had a wonderful year with you all!

We want to thank everyone who attended our events this past academic year, and appreciate your commitment to gender justice and feminism, and working to make change on our campus!



Caitlin Ortis  
*Current Events & Social Media Specialist*

# WRC Staff News

## Meet Our New Associate Director!

Hello all,

I am excited to announce a BIG shift in my role here at UNC! You may already be familiar with me serving as the Leadership Coordinator for the Stryker Institute for Leadership Development. It is bittersweet to step out of that role as it is one that I have had immense joy in filling over the past four years here at UNC. At the same time, it is with great enthusiasm that I step into the role of Associate Director here at the Women's Resource Center and Stryker Institute!

I am excited to bring with me, my curiosity, compassion, and ambition in a new light, while maintaining my commitment to social justice, equity, feminism, and leadership from an identity lens. In my new role I get to challenge myself beyond the capacity of working solely with one scholarship program, and get to engage a much larger scale, campus as whole! I can't wait to see what will unfold with this new journey. I am excited to carry on our campus commitment to gender equity in all we do here at the WRC.

For more information about me, check out my bio on the WRC webpage :) or feel free to stop in and say hi before you go on break this summer. I would love to hear from you about your own experiences with UNC, the WRC, and life in general.



Sarah Rodriguez  
Associate Director

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The WRC staff remains highly focused on the personal, academic, and professional growth of our students. As a result, this year we are celebrating **Caitlin Ortis**, Current Event & Social Media Specialist for the WRC, as she graduated in the fall with her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies with a minor in Gender Studies and began her graduate student journey in pursuit of her Master of Arts in Sociology with a Thesis Emphasis.

**Noemy Rodriguez**, graduate assistant for the Stryker Institute will be graduating with her Master of Arts degree in Sociology with a Thesis Emphasis this spring and beginning the next step in her journey as she moves on from UNC. **Allie Berger**, graduate assistant for the WRC, will be transitioning out to begin a full-time position at CSU while she completes her Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership here at UNC. The WRC is very proud of the personal investment each of these individuals have made in themselves during their time with us at UNC as well as the commitment and dedication to their work of equity and gender justice.

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## We Are Hiring!

The Women's Resource Center and Stryker Institute are hiring for the following positions:

- Work Study – Program Specialist
- Graduate Assistantship – The Women's Resource Center
- Graduate Assistantship – Stryker Institute

Please see our website: [www.unco.edu/wrc](http://www.unco.edu/wrc) or contact Yvette.LuceroNguyen@unco.edu for more information



# What was your favorite WRC event?

"My favorite event this past year was the Strong Sisters film screening and panel discussion. I learned so much about the history of elected women in Colorado, and found the panel discussion to be really powerful and inspiring!"

- Caitlin Ortis,  
*Current Events & Social Media Specialist*



"Women Behaving Badly, ARR"  
-Anonymous

"Adri Norris, ARR"  
-Anonymous

"My favorite event this year was Adri Norris!! It was something I connected with personally as I also tell stories through art. It was very educational and interesting."  
-Abby Schleppenbach, *Program Coordinator*



"All of them because I learn new and exciting things at all WRC events that help me grow as a human being! WRC is awesome!"  
-Anonymous

"The Gender Justice Conference! It was amazing hearing from so many incredible activists and speakers"

-Harrison, *Student Coordinator at the GSRC*

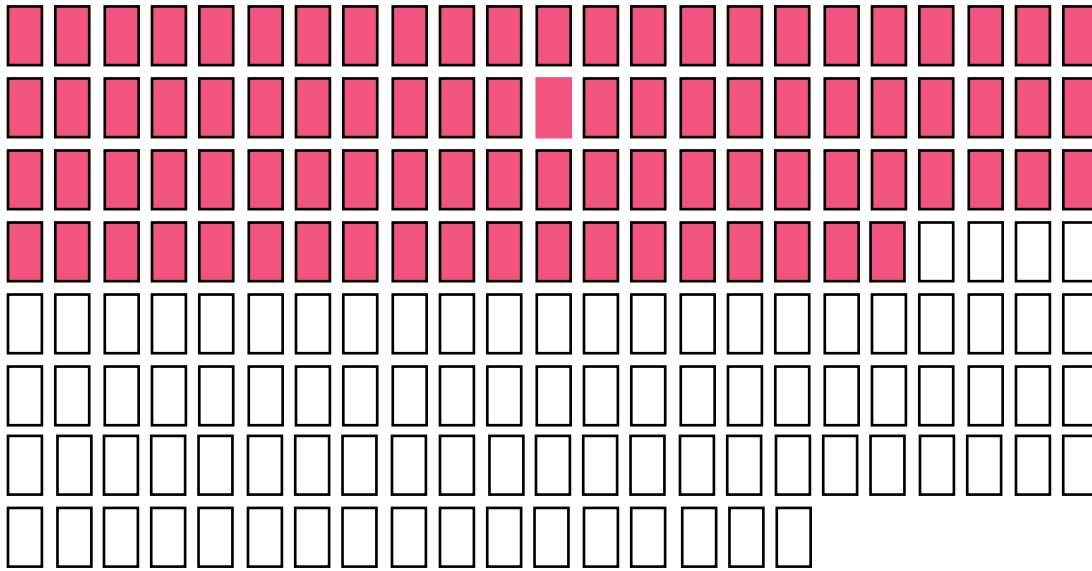
"Without fail the Gender Justice and Feminism Conference is the best even on campus every year, because of the space created there for community and intentional conversations."

-Marika Barth, *Diversity Mentor*



# Because lactating looks like this...

Out of the **178** posters we distributed  
(not including posters in residence halls), **88** were removed.



**= 49.4%**  
of posters were removed  
from 09/17 - 01/18

**Why is the image on the left less acceptable than the one on the right?**



Image Provided by Carriage House Birth and the  
@carriagehousebirth Instagram



Image from Victoria's Secret

Removing our 'Because Lactating Looks Like This...' posters, sends the message to lactating people that the biological process of feeding their children or expressing milk is not okay to do on campus. UNC's breastfeeding and lactation support policy "acknowledges that an individual may breastfeed their child in any place they have the right to be on campus". The WRC supports the #RightToLactate, and invite our campus community to support this right. For the full breastfeeding policy, visit:

[www.unco.edu/human-resources/pdf/new-documents/unc-breastfeeding-policy.pdf](http://www.unco.edu/human-resources/pdf/new-documents/unc-breastfeeding-policy.pdf)



# Staying Involved with Gender Justice Over The Summer

Congratulations, UNC Bears! After a year of learning, we have made it to the warm (fingers crossed, Colorado!) summer months. We at the Women's Resource Center appreciate all of the individuals who have supported our work, attended our events, and engaged in conversations around feminism and gender justice. We wish you a peaceful summer break, and encourage you to continue feminist work over the summer. Here are some recommendations from our staff:

Allie Berger  
*Graduate Assistant, WRC*



## **CONNECT:**

Fill your social media newsfeed with body positive bloggers, women of color, non-binary folx, and those doing feminist work daily. You can also find ways to connect with your friends and family about these issues, either in person or via the internet.

**Bitchmedia.org** - "Bitch Media is a non-profit feminist multimedia organization, providing and encouraging engaged, thoughtful feminist response to media and pop culture"

**Feministing.com** - "Feministing is an online community run by and for young feminists. For over a decade, we've been offering sharp, uncompromising feminist analysis of everything from pop culture to politics and inspiring young people to make real-world feminist changes, online and off."

**Themilitantbaker.com** - Lose the Bullshit, Liberate your Body  
"The Militant Baker covers a mixture of subjects ranging from the delightful to the very very uncomfortable. These topics include but are not limited to: notes on the hazardous journey of body acceptance, how to take boudoir photos, rape culture, reasons why you should get a kitten, equality, the complicated relationship we all have with body hair, feminism rants, why you don't have to be everyone's best friend, and general empowerment."

## **LISTEN:**

Pop in those headphones and escape into the world of music or a podcast. There are so many amazing musicians that integrate a social justice lens into their art. A great podcast or a feminist album on blast is a sure way to make your day enjoyable.

### **'The Heart'** by Kaitlin Prest

"The Heart is an audio art project about intimacy and humanity, comprised of a community of badass writers, radio makers, and artists who make personal documentary work about their bodies and their loves."

### **'2 Dope Queens'** by Jessica Williams and Phoebe Robinson

"Phoebe Robinson and Jessica Williams are funny. They're black. They're BFFs. And they host a live comedy show in Brooklyn. Join the 2 Dope Queens, along with their favorite comedians, for stories about sex, romance, race, hair journeys, living in New York, and Billy Joel. Plus a whole bunch of other s\*\*t"

### **'Anzalduing It'** by Angélica Becerra and Jackie Cáraves

"Queer bffs Angélica Becerra and Jackie Cáraves bring you a new podcast discussing politics, pop culture, horoscopes and life on the borderlands. As Jackie mentions in the first episode, "Anzalduing It" refers to the code switching Chicanos and other people of color experience, which is explored in Gloria Anzaldua's Borderlands. "I'm 'anzalduing it' todo el tiempo" is a sentiment I deeply identify with too! Angélica's art work was featured in Autostraddle's Latinx essay series, Our Pulse."

### **'Jotxs Y Recuerdos'** by Alexandra Nichole Salazar Vasquez

"Jotxs y Recuerdos is a podcast archiving queer history in the Rio Grande Valley, where I grew up. It's a dope podcast that talks to LGBTQ folks from the borderlands and their lived experiences. The host Alexandra Nichole Salazar Vasquez talks to her queer mom and her trans dad for the first two episodes. The podcast's name is a play on words inspired by Selena's 1995 hit song "Fotos y Recuerdos." Alexandra reclaims the word "jotxs," which is the non-gendered spelling of "joto" or "jota," a Spanish slur used against queer people. Listen to Jotxs y Recuerdos on Neta, a bilingual multimedia platform from the Rio Grande Valley or on iTunes."

### **'Popaganda'** by Bitch Media

"Popaganda" is Bitch Media's self-proclaimed feminist podcast. In the hour-long episodes, the show "digs deep on movies, books, TV, and media." The best part about this podcast is that it's relevant and insightful, touching on all sorts of hot topics such as workplace patriarchy, raising feminist kids and body positivity. Bitch Media also has a companion podcast called "Backtalk," which is described as a "snappy conversation between two Bitch editors about the week's pop culture." Previous topics include sexism at Uber and the controversy over Vogue's use of yellowface. If you want to be an informed feminist, this podcast is for you.



## READ:

Summer break is the perfect time to crack open a new book, and reading literature or poetry written by outstanding authors is a wonderful way to expand your knowledge and consider new perspectives. The Women's Resource Center also has an extensive library, so make sure to stop in and check it out!

### *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*

by Brittney Cooper

"In her searing and courageous new book, *Cosmopolitan* columnist and Rutgers University professor dismantles the misguided notion that Black women's anger is a weakness. Rather, the author draws from history, pop culture, and her personal experiences from childhood and adulthood to position "eloquent rage" as a source of power that grants black women from Serena Williams to Michelle Obama the strength to not only survive but thrive in America."

### *Doing Harm: The Truth About How Bad Medicine and Lazy Science Leave Women Dismissed, Misdiagnosed, and Sick*

by Maya Dusenbery

"In *Doing Harm*, Maya Dusenbery weaves together scientific and sociological research, interviews with doctors and researchers, and personal stories from women across the country to provide the first comprehensive, accessible look at how sexism in medicine harms women today."

## WATCH:

This summer enjoy a few viewing sessions of series and films with dynamic and engaging characters. Support diverse filmmakers and stories that highlight the experiences of folx that have been historically and systemically marginalized.

*Dear White People* is set at an Ivy League college and it shows what the college experience is like through the eyes of black students who take on microaggressions, dating, and cultural appropriation on their predominantly white campus — and that's just the first episode. This witty, smart series is required viewing.

*Claws* follows the rise of five diverse and treacherous manicurists working at the Nail Artisan of Manatee County in Florida, where a lot more is going on besides silk wraps and pedicures.



## *The Incredible Jessica James*

Jessica, an aspiring playwright in New York City, is trying to get over a recent break-up when she meets Boone, who's also recovering from a recent split. Together, they figure out a way to make it in a "post-relationship" world.

## *The Handmaid's Tail*

Based on the best-selling novel by Margaret Atwood, this series is set in Gilead, a totalitarian society in what used to be part of the United States. Gilead is ruled by a fundamentalist regime that treats women as property of the state, and is faced with environmental disasters and a plummeting birth rate. In a desperate attempt to repopulate a devastated world, the few remaining fertile women are forced into sexual servitude. One of these women, Offred, is determined to survive the terrifying world she lives in, and find the daughter that was taken from her.

## *Shondaland*

All of the following shows were produced by Shonda Rhimes' production company called Shondaland.

*Grey's Anatomy*: The medical drama series focuses on a group of doctors at a hospital in Seattle, including several who began their careers at the facility as interns. One of the doctors and the show's namesake, Meredith Grey, is the daughter of a famous surgeon.

*Scandal*: Olivia Pope, a former media consultant to the president, is ready to move on with her life and opens her own crisis-management firm, but she can't seem to shake ties with her past. Olivia's staff includes Quinn Perkins, who has a complicated history, and hacker extraordinaire Huck. As she moves forward it becomes clear that, while her staffers may specialize in cleaning up the lives of other people, they can't seem to do the same for themselves.

*How to Get Away With Murder*: Annalise Keating (Oscar- and Tony-winning actress Viola Davis), a brilliant, charismatic and seductive professor of defense law, teaches a class called How to Get Away With Murder. Annalise, also a criminal defense attorney, selects a group of students -- the best and the brightest -- to assist with cases at her firm alongside her employees, the trustworthy and discreet Frank Delfino (Charlie Weber) and Bonnie Winterbottom ("Gilmore Girls" alum Liza Weil), an associate attorney. Mysteries arise that test everyone's limits and reveal dark truths.

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Have a wonderful summer, bears! Keep engaging in this work, because it is so, so important. We'll see you in the fall!



# student voices

Welcome to the Student Voices section of the WRC Today! The Student Voices section of the WRC Today began in Spring, 2016. We collaborated with the Gender Studies program to feature written pieces by students to distribute in the newsletter. Student voices began as a space for students on campus to be able to discuss various topics relating to women's and gender issues, have their voices be heard, and to get various perspectives on these topics. When initially launched, the Student Voices section was not open for all students on campus to submit pieces.

While the purpose of Student Voices continues to be offering a space to heighten gender consciousness (being aware of what it means to have a gender identity and to navigate life from a place of gender), we decided to open up the section to allow all students on campus to submit not only written pieces, but also visual art, self-reflections, poetry and much more. If you want to join the Women's Resource Center in heightening gender awareness at the University of Northern Colorado, then submit your piece to us! Topics can vary anywhere from identity and intersectionality to injustice and gender.

If you are interested in submitting a reflection or piece (e.g. short story, poetry, visual art, etc.) to be featured in our monthly newsletter and online content, submit to, or for more information, contact Yvette Lucero-Nguyen at [Yvette.LuceroNguyen@unco.edu](mailto:Yvette.LuceroNguyen@unco.edu).



# Blue and Green

By Faith Lyons



CW: sexual assault

*“look at what they’ve done  
the earth cried to the moon  
they’ve turned me into one entire bruise*

-blue and green”

-rupi kaur

From *The Sun and Her Flowers*, Rupi Kaur’s poem, to me, embodies a personal message of ecofeminism. Ecofeminism is a movement that seeks to link environmentalism and feminism by drawing connections between the exploitation of nature and the exploitation of women. Many make the distinction that this connection does not have to do with women being “feminine” and nature being feminized, but the two share parallels along the lines of their “similar states of oppression by the same male-dominant forces.” In my painting *Blue and Green*, I have attempted to weave together the experiences of sexual assault, feminism, and environmentalism to create my image of “Mother Earth,” both representing degradation of the natural world as well as oppression of women, especially in regards to sexual assault.

Deflowering often has two meanings: to remove flowers or to take someone’s (often a girl’s) “virginity.” Represented in this mountain landscape, my version of “Mother Earth” blends into mountains. She is crying a river as hands pull flowers from her hair. She is being “deflowered” in the sense that flowers are being removed without her consent. Similarly, a person losing their virginity without their consent is sexual assault. My piece represents nonconsensual consumption of both the Earth and of a person’s body.



Faith Lyons, *Graphic Design & Marketing Specialist*



# *Affinity Student Consciousness Raising*

An Affinity space provides an opportunity for individuals who belong to a particular identity group or groups to engage in discussion around issues/topics that speak directly to the identity experiences of those individuals.

**Feb 28 @Scott-Willcoxon Hall**  
(Women)

**Mar 28 @César Chávez**  
(Women of Color)

**April 18 @Gender and  
Sexuality Resource Center**  
(Queer Women)

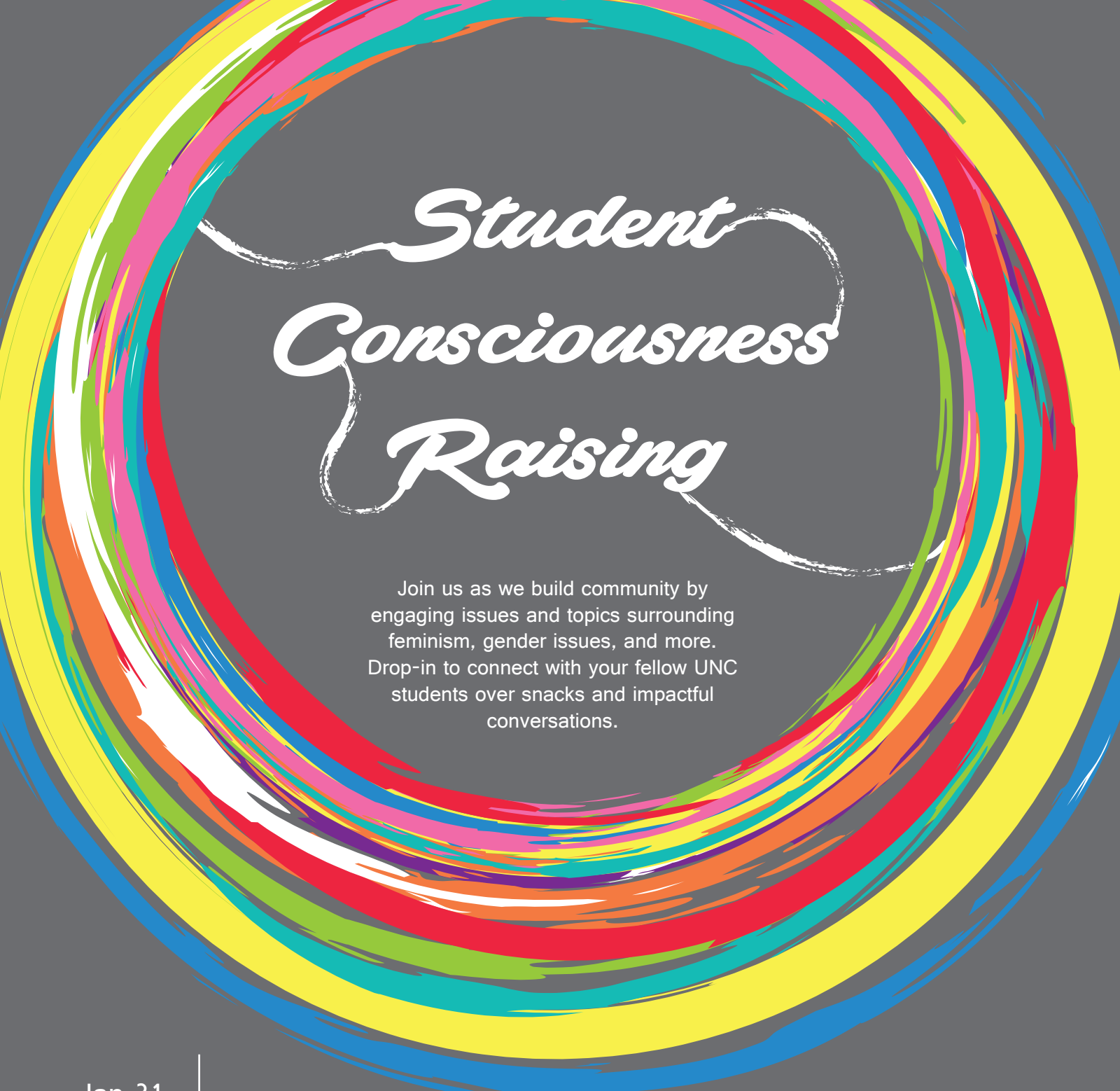
5:00 - 6:30 PM

I Need  
**Feminism  
Because...**

UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN  
COLORADO**

Women's Resource Center





# *Student Consciousness Raising*

Join us as we build community by  
engaging issues and topics surrounding  
feminism, gender issues, and more.  
Drop-in to connect with your fellow UNC  
students over snacks and impactful  
conversations.

Jan 31  
Feb 14  
Feb 28  
Mar 21  
Mar 28  
Apr 25

5:00 - 6:30 PM

The Women's  
Resource Center  
@Scott-Willcoxon Hall

I Need  
**Feminism  
Because...**



# GSRC'S LAVENDER CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 19th, 2018

Centennial Hall

(inside Brown Hall in President's Row)

Greeley, CO

3 pm - 4:30 pm







SPECTRUM

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL QUEER PROM

ROARING 20s

TUESDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>

UC PANORAMA ROOM

7:00 P.M.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**UNC**

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ANY PERSON REQUESTING DISABILITY  
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THIS EVENT  
PLEASE CONTACT 970-351-2289 AT  
LEAST 3 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE.