

WRC TODAY

Veteran's Social Media Activism

By: Tara Anderson

Scrolling through Facebook, some of you may have seen the photo of a veteran who identifies as a Transgender woman wearing a shirt with the slogan, 'I fought for your right to hate me.' The woman who posted the photo is 44 year-old Carla Lewis. Lewis who was discharged from the Air Force eighteen months after enlisting, states that "even if the rights and privileges secured enable others to lobby against me and my transgender brothers and sisters...freedom matters to us" (Carla Lewis, Daily Mail). Lewis' photo has gone viral and brought attention to transgender soldiers serving in the military which has raised awareness to the ban on military service for openly identified transgender folks. In spirit of Veteran's Day (which was November 11th), we want to encourage everyone to honor all veterans as their authentic selves, without having to hide their true identities.



Source:

'I fought for your right to hate me': Transgender veteran's picture of powerful words on her t-shirt goes viral (Mail Online)

By: Dailymail.com, Khaleda.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3310632/I-fought-right-hate-Transgender-veteran-s-picture-powerful-words-t-shirt-goes-viral.html>

Spring Events to look out for!

As fall semester comes to a close and winter break quickly approaches, the Women's Resource Center wants students to keep in mind all that spring has to offer. Spring is definitely our busiest time of the year with all of the events that we have going on and as students prepare to leave for winter break we just want students to start thinking about all of the events that will be available for them to attend!

VDAY
Feb. 8 - Feb. 12

Women's History Month
March

Inspiring Women's Awards/
Women's Recognition Reception
April 9
(Nominations will be collected
from Jan.-Mar.)

For more information about the Women's Resource Center and our events,
please visit www.unco.edu/wrc, stop by Scott-Willcoxon Hall, or call 970.351.1492.

Thanksgiving:

Do you really know?

By: Savana Griego

Thanksgiving has come and passed and we are all trying to come back from a short break for the last two weeks of the semester so that we can enjoy the month long break that divides fall from spring. However, before we do that I want to take time to think about the holiday that just passed us: Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is known as a time for families to be together, over indulge in delicious food, maybe watch some football, if that is what you are in to, and over indulge in some more food.

Before working at the WRC I never thought twice about what I had learned about Thanksgiving in school. As the story goes, “in 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies” (History.com Staff, “History of Thanksgiving”).

I came to realize that today’s Thanksgiving is a holiday that we want to believe is celebrating good things when in fact it is quite the opposite. It just so happens that our “textbooks” forgot to mention that the colonists, so many years ago, stole this land from Indigenous tribes through genocide. Not quite the picture perfect “autumn harvest feast” that we once thought it was.

It is important to understand the true history of Thanksgiving and what we are really celebrating every year, check out “Deconstructing the Myths of the First Thanksgiving” by Judy Dow (Abenaki) and Beverly Slapin.

Here are a few suggestions for how you can be accountable on Thanksgiving:

1. Learn About the Modern-Day Struggle of the Descendants of the People Who Helped the Pilgrims
2. Support Indigenous People’s Efforts to Reclaim Their Language
3. Lobby For the Return of State and Federal Lands To Indigenous People
4. Lobby For Colonial Symbols To Be Removed From Our Communities
5. Contribute To Buy Back Programs

Many of these suggestions were adapted from a keynote given by Waziyatawin, Ph.D. at the recent Overcoming Racism Conference (Jamie Utt, “5 Socially Accountable Things You Can Do on Thanksgiving”)

Sources:

<http://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving>

<http://everydayfeminism.com/2012/11/this-thanksgiving-try-accountability-with-your-turkey/>

<http://changefromwithin.org/2012/11/21/this-thanksgiving-try-accountability-with-your-turkey/>

<http://oyate.org/index.php/resources/43-resources/thanksgiving>

Thanksgiving Myths. Digital image. <i>5 Socially Accountable Things You Can Do on Thanksgiving</i>. Everyday Feminism, 2012. Web. 30 Nov. 2015. <http://everydayfeminism.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ThanksgivingMyths2.jpg>



End of the Year Staff Question!

What was the most impactful thing at the WRC this semester?

“Seeing so many UNC students and staff come to the Open House at the start of the Fall Semester was exciting. The campus community was engaged in conversations surrounding topics of gender equity and it was a nice atmosphere to get to know others and more about all we do at the Women’s Resource Center.”

– *Tara Anderson, WRC Student Assistant*

“For me, the most impactful thing at the WRC this semester was the successful Open House event in early September. It was inspiring to see so many students and staff present within our center, engaging in conversations about such important issues regarding gender equity.”

– *Lindsay Robertson, Stryker GA*

“The printer has been the most impactful thing at the WRC this semester. This is due to all the changes that have come with it.”

– *Ivann Arellano, WRC Student Assistant*

“My most meaningful experience from this semester was listening to B. Cole from the Brown Boi Project at the Women's Conference. The intentionality, charisma, and passion that goes into her work to dismantle homophobia and transphobia is truly empowering.”

– *Tyrell Allen, WRC GA*

“This semester has brought new and interesting things to the WRC. As we moved through the semester, I was inspired by the collective passion and engagement of our staff, which enabled us to develop a unique opportunity for our campus to engage in a conversation around Feminism and Activism at this year’s Women’s Conference. While at the conference, it was motivating to be in a space with many community activists who continue to engage activism in their individual unique ways.

‘I think the importance of doing activist work is precisely because it allows you to give back and to consider yourself not as a single individual who may have achieved whatever but to be a part of an ongoing historical movement.’–Angela Davis”

– *Yvette Lucero-Nguyen, WRC Director*

“This semester brought an amazing gift into my life; the birth of my baby girl Amelia. I am reminded of the importance of our work in a new way when I look into her eyes and see her innocence to all that is wrong in our world and I can't help but think of all she will have to navigate someday, whoever she becomes. I am grateful to work at the WRC where I get to challenge systems of inequity and sexism every day and can't wait to see what next semester brings.”

– *Emily, WRC Assistant Director*

You can also find our newsletter on our website!!

Contact Us!

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Women’s Resource Center



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