

Peer Educators at Two Universities Leverage Technology to Cultivate Conversations About HIV Testing and Prevention

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NATIONAL
RYAN WHITE
CONFERENCE
ON HIV CARE & TREATMENT

Project Aim and Objectives

AIM

Develop a series of *vodcasts* with HIV experts moderated by university peer educators who use social networking and other strategies to target, influence and engage university students.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Provide education on HIV testing, diagnosis, treatment and prevention to all peer educators.
- 2.** Plan and conduct vodcasts during one 9-week academic semester and evaluate.

University Student Recruitment

University of South Alabama (USA)

- Jag Health Team Peer Educators
- Trained to educate peers on health and wellness issues to provide information and support to encourage healthy lifestyles
- 2 committed students

- USA College of Nursing
- Presented project to community health nursing classes:
- Incentive - class credit
- 2 committed nursing students

University of the Virgin Islands (UVI)

- 4 UVI Student Peer Educators (Historically Black College and University)
- Funding: Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDOH) with the goal to increase HIV testing among UVI students
- Peer education provided by the Northeast/Caribbean AIDs Education and Training Center on HIV prevention/treatment, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and stigma
- Peer educators facilitated campus health fairs, dorm talks, vodcasts/podcasts and campus-wide HIV testing events in collaboration with the VIDOH

Fall 2021 Vodcast Episodes

Week 1: HIV Fact or Fiction

Week 2: USA Student Health Services

Week 3: Confidential HIV Testing

Week 4: Why Worry? Consider PrEP

Week 5: HIV/Sexually Transmitted
Infections

Spring 2022 Podcast Episodes

Week 1: Stigma of HIV Testing

Week 2: Stigma of Mental Health

Week 3: Stigma of Food Insecurity

Promotional Materials

#StartTalkingHIV



**Peer Educators and
Vodcasts**
How can we help
YOU?

Visit youtube.com/user/usabiomed

USA and UVI Student Peer Educators
interview experts on sexual health and
HIV/STIs



AETC AIDS Education &
Training Center Program
Northeast/Caribbean



Tuesday, October 5 & 12
Friday, October 22 & 29, November 5
1 pm CST; 2 pm AST



University of South Alabama
BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY

A joint project conducted by students from the
University of South Alabama and the
University of the Virgin Islands



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY



**REAL ISSUES
REAL TALK**
FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS

FREE HIV TESTING



BREAK THE STIGMA
ON "HIV TESTING"



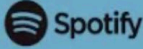
Anchor
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Student REDCap Evaluation Survey Findings

- ✓ **100% Agreement: Vodcasts are informative and engaging.**
- ✓ **100% Suggested: Create a social media page to better promote the series**

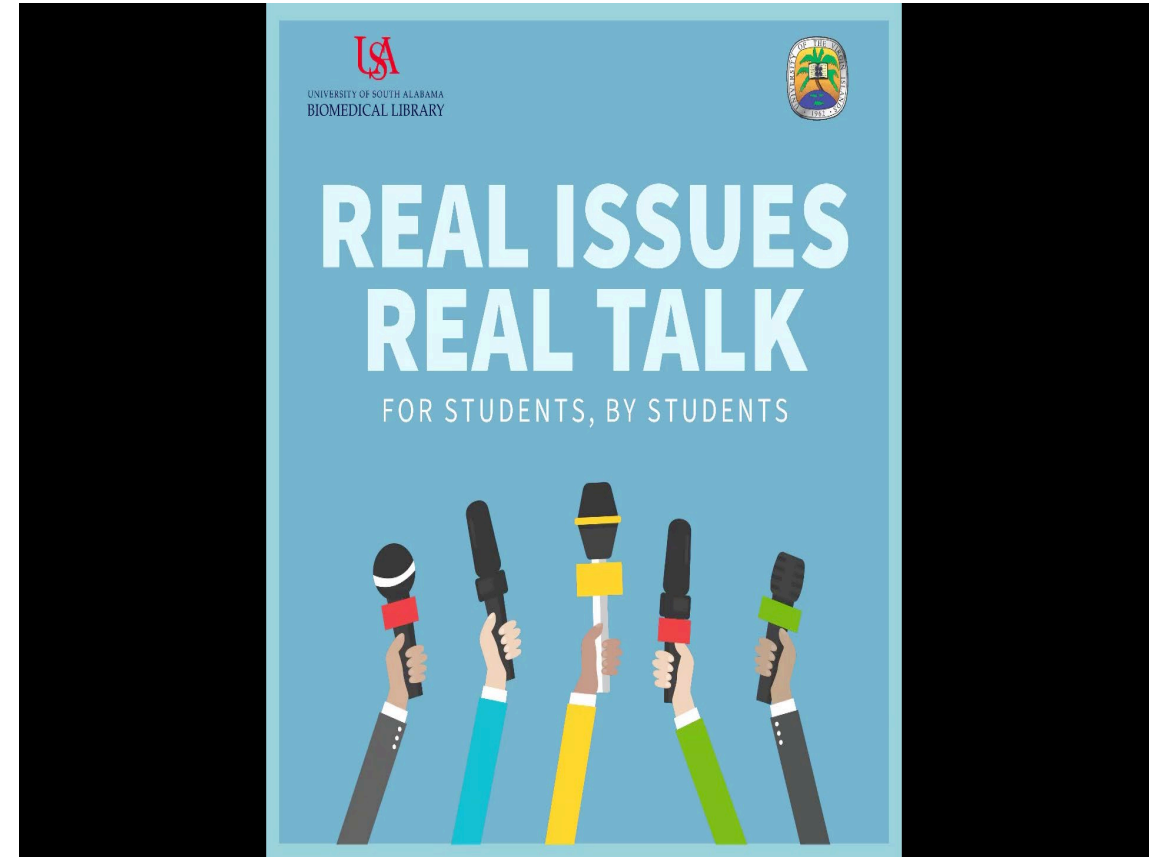
Peer Educators reported they

- received adequate training on HIV testing/prevention and STIs from the NE/CA AETC liaison/educator
- felt comfortable asking expert guests questions
- believed expert guests provided helpful information on HIV topics and related well to students
- requested to continue participation in the project during spring semester
- would recommend project participation to their peers

Stay Tuned to a Project in the Making!



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20819_Peer Educators Leverage Technology: Transcript of audio clip 34 seconds PowerPoint Slide 7

Real Issues, Real Talk: For Students, By Students

1st speaker: Do you think that breaking down the stigma surrounding talking about sexual health with your parents will inevitably break down the stigma surrounding HIV testing?

2nd speaker: I do, I actually do. I was getting ready to ask about that. I believe if we get more comfortable talking about sexual health at home, it will be very, it will very easy to talk to it at school because where I live in the Virgin Islands is like talking about sex, is like as a taboo behind a veil, like, nobody wants to talk about sex.

3rd speaker: So, the other the question becomes, if we're are talking about sex, what kind of sex are we talking about?