Jan. 28, 2016

To: DU community

From: Campus Safety

Subject: Campus Safety increases patrols in wake of recent incidents

In light of three recent incidents of forcible fondling (a subcategory of sexual assault) that have occurred around the DU campus, the Department of Campus Safety is increasing patrols, including foot patrols to increase visibility and to accommodate requests for escorts on campus. To request an escort at any time, day or night, please contact Campus Safety at 303-871-2334.

As shared with the community through DU Alerts, the three incidents happened in the late-night to early-morning hours between Wednesday, Jan. 20 and Thursday, Jan. 28. In each of these incidents—occurring along city blocks near campus on the east and west sides—a male suspect approached a female student, grabbed her, and then immediately fled the area. In our earlier communications, we reported that the suspect was a light-skinned or light-complexioned male. We can now confirm based on witness descriptions that the suspect is a 6-foot tall white male of college age.

We are proud that DU community members have bravely come forward to report these incidents to Campus Safety in the interests of their fellow community members’ safety. We are collaborating with the Denver Police Department to address these crimes, and we appreciate that DPD is also increasing its patrols of the area. Unfortunately, we believe that we could see additional instances of this crime.

Therefore, we ask you to travel in groups, request a foot escort by calling 303-871-2334, sign up for an introductory self-defense class, and report any suspicious activity to both the Denver Police Department (720-913-2000) and Campus Safety (303-871-3000). We also recommend you avoid talking on your cell phone, listening to music or texting, especially while walking alone at night, as these actions make you less aware of your surroundings.

Sexual assault is never the fault of the victim. While nothing is failsafe, here are some tips that everyone should consider:

- Forcing sexual contact on another person without consent is against the law and against university policy. Sexual contact without consent is sexual assault and is never the victim’s fault.
- Be active in supporting a safe and respectful community. If you see others engaging in disrespectful or inappropriate actions, speak up and get involved, or contact someone else to assist.
- If you would like more information about how to be a proactive bystander, please participate in a “Be a B.O.S.S.” training.
• Trust your instincts. If you feel uneasy or sense something is wrong, call for help.

We must look out for each other and be supportive during this time. Any form of sexual assault can create trauma for the victim. We urge anyone to seek the resources available through the Health and Counseling Center (303-871-2205) or CAPE (303-871-3853) for confidential support.

As we shared with you earlier this week, we are committed to being as clear as we can when communicating timely information regarding possible threats to the community. These recent alerts needed to be issued in the middle of the night; however, based on feedback this week, we will only send emergency notifications to phones via voice message when the situation warrants. Currently, 93 percent of community members who have opted in to our emergency alerts are signed up for text messages. With this change, alerts such as those issued for forcible fondling, will be sent via text and email only.

We will continue to share information with you as needed.