Katie Koestner has spoken about sexual assault to hundreds of thousands of students at more than 500 schools over the last few years. Her story is one of victimization, but her message is one of empowerment. Katie is a survivor, not a victim. Whether it is her "No Yes" Keynote presentation, a workshop for RA's on "What to Do If..." a victim comes to them for help, a training session for a disciplinary hearing board, or an orientation program for incoming freshmen, Katie's programs are designed not only to produce awareness, but to facilitate prevention. Her message at freshman orientation gives students who are new to college the chance to learn from her example, without having to suffer personally through the trauma she endured. Katie interweaves her own story, and vignettes from survivors across the country, with a three-fold message of successful sexual communication, responsibility in the use of drugs and alcohol, and respect, for self and for others. Seeing sexual assault through Katie's

eyes enables students to challenge stereotypes and confront conventional beliefs and behaviors. Her emotionally charged talk creates an environment of understanding, and helps to lay the groundwork for proactive, long-term behavioral transformation.

"It is rare to find someone whose story and presentation are so compelling, and yet remain so accessible to a broad audience. Your time on this campus made a real difference to those who heard you speak."

Chrissey Woolley,
student, Amherst College

Once the audience is able to relate to her viscerally, Katie supplies the informational building-blocks to provide students with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions. For example, most students have never heard of the "Red Zone," but they leave the program understanding that 1-in-4 women are the victims of rape or attempted rape during their college years, and that the majority of these women will be assaulted during the 2-3 month period between orientation and the first break of their freshman year at college. It is essential that such information is provided to new students during orientation. At her Keynote Speech for large audiences, Katie talks about such key issues as drunk sex and the epidemic rise in the abuse of Rohypnol on many college campuses. Her workshop for RA's teaches them why having a paper bag handy may make all the difference in whether or not a perpetrator is caught. Katie is only a few years out of college herself, and she knows what the college scene is like for students today. She achieves a connectedness with audiences that only comes from being an insider.

Katie's special gift is her ability to get audiences to relate to her experience, whether it is a presentation to the football players at Texas A&M, or addressing all 4,000 midshipmen and women at the U.S. Naval Academy, or a program at an inner-city school in Boston where rape is commonplace, or for a group of inmates—convicted murderers, drug addicts, dealers — at a prison in Connecticut, or at a speech to 5,000 Greek students at Cornell University. Katie puts date rape on a level that everyone can feel, and to which anyone can relate.

"Thank you for providing an extraordinary program. Your eloquent presentation on sexual assault was both moving and instructional, and reached the hearts and minds of the audience...
Your impact on the community is clear..."

Lori Teaser
Associate Director of Campus Life, Brandeis University

UNDERSTANDING INFORMED CONSENT LAWS

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A program on sexual assault presented by:

Campus Outreach Services

"She said" — He said

Katie Kosterer and Beth A. Zolotor, J.D.

Is preceded to others.