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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Jen Lund receives Someplace Safe award

Summary: University of Minnesota, Morris Campus Police Officer Jennifer Lund has received the Someplace Safe Award in recognition of her work with sexual assault victims. Lund said that she is "very honored to be recognized."

(April 27, 2007)-University of Minnesota, Morris Campus Police Officer Jennifer Lund has received the Someplace Safe Award in recognition of her work with sexual assault victims. Lund said that she is "very honored to be recognized."

In addition to her work as an on-campus police officer, Lund is also active in many other projects. She is a part of the Stevens County Violence Prevention Task Force, a group of people who respond to sexual assaults and work to make the process more comfortable by acting in a "victim-centered" way. The task force operates in the best interests of the victim. According to Lund: "Very few sexual assaults are actually reported, it doesn't mean they don't happen."

Someplace Safe is an advocacy group and acts as the victim's advocate as a part of that task force. The group recognized Lund with the award after working on numerous cases with Lund.

Lund initiated Rape Aggression Defense classes at UMM. "It was about five years ago that a student told me they saw this R.A.D demonstration at a "Take Back the Night" event and then convinced me to start the class in Morris." The R.A.D. class is an empowerment class that starts with risk awareness, recognition and avoidance. It progresses to hands-on self-defense. The class has been offered for the past five years two years ago an advanced class was added.

"A lot of people think of sexual assault as a stranger rape, but in reality the victim and the rapist are usually familiar with each other," explained Lund. Lund also speaks during the annual "Take Back the Night" event that takes place on campus and throughout Morris and the UMM New Student Orientation program session on "College Challenges."

"I do this type of work because there needs to be an awareness about sexual assault. A lot of people don't know the facts about sexual assault, what sexual assault is and what the victim goes through," explained Lund.

Photo by Nancy Woodke, Morris Sun Tribune: Lund, center, with Carrie Buddy and Christine Peacock from Someplace Safe

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