



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 13, 2014

**CONTACT:**  
Debbie Snyder, SDT Executive Director  
[dsnyder@sigmadeltatau.com](mailto:dsnyder@sigmadeltatau.com)

Deborah Rosenbloom, JWI VP of Programs  
[jrosenbloom@jwi.org](mailto:jrosenbloom@jwi.org)

### **SDT Joins With JWI, ZBT to Create Safe Smart Dating Program on College Campuses**

CARMEL, Indiana — Jewish Women International (JWI), the leading Jewish organization working to end domestic violence and empower women and girls, is offering the first national program on dating abuse and sexual assault for the Greek community on college campuses in partnership with Sigma Delta Tau (SDT) Sorority and Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) Fraternity. Through a series of discussions, scenarios, news stories and videos, this groundbreaking, interactive and co-ed program helps young people define and identify dating abuse and sexual assault as well as build skills to be active bystanders at school and in their communities.

JWI's Executive Director Lori Weinstein explained, "Unique circumstances on college campuses too often result in high rates of dating abuse and sexual assault. Nationally, one in four sexual assaults take place on college campuses, and one in five college-age women will experience dating abuse and/or sexual assault before they graduate. The innovative partnership program between JWI and SDT and ZBT meets students where they are and addresses issues head-on, serving as a catalyst for essential conversations. It is critical that both young women and young men have this conversation — together."

The program — which will be piloted at the University of Pennsylvania, George Washington University and Purdue University this school year — will examine relationships through the lens of power and control, explore gender norms, consider elements of healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships and build student skills to be active bystanders. Program elements include a survey of SDT and ZBT members on their experiences, a short video of young people talking about dating violence, co-ed peer-led workshops and a train-the-trainer component. The program will incorporate creative use of social media and advocacy to further engage members of the college community.

"We are thrilled to partner with JWI and ZBT Fraternity to develop a program on dating abuse on college campuses," said Debbie Snyder, executive director of SDT. "This is a significant issue that collegiate women and men face on a daily basis. We hope this program will educate and

empower young women and men to do the right thing, by respecting others, as well as themselves. We are very excited about the launch of this program.

“We applaud JWI for once again creating an innovative educational program to help young adults realize the full potential of their personal strength and how they can help each other to be in healthy, positive dating relationships.”

Laurence Bolotin, executive director of ZBT, added, “This program is a valuable resource for college-aged men to break down the stereotypes of the role that men play in a relationship. Men can, and should, understand how effective communication with their partner can lead to a better and healthier understanding between each other. Further, young men need to understand how to not only confront situations they know are wrong, but also to prevent such situations from arising in the first place, as well as learn how to serve as an ally to men and women in need of one.”

“JWI’s relationship with Sigma Delta Tau and Zeta Beta Tau is the first of its kind, and we look forward to helping college-aged students across the country build healthy relationships and be active bystanders,” said Deborah Rosenbloom, JWI’s vice president of programs. “This program will provide a template for future partnerships we intend to build with additional college Greek organizations as well as on college campuses without Greek systems. It is the starting point for positively impacting not only young people’s relationships and dating safety, but also an entire generation’s outlook toward the prevention of violence against women and dating violence.”

For more information on the Sigma Delta Tau National organization, please visit:

[www.sigmadeltatau.com](http://www.sigmadeltatau.com)

###

### **ABOUT SIGMA DELTA TAU**

*Sigma Delta Tau is a National women’s social sorority, founded in 1917 at Cornell University. The National Sorority has more than 50,000 members. SDT’s philanthropic partners include: Prevent Child Abuse America, Jewish Women International, and Women for Women International. SDT provides intellectual, philanthropic, leadership and social opportunities within a framework of mutual respect and high ethical standards.*