Dear Jamie, Amy and Kirby,

I'm pleased to give you an update on the DisHonorRoll project mid-way through our year-long project.

Progress to Date

We began the project in November by bringing onboard Bitch Media to run the drumroll of stories and Mother Jones to provide an investigative report.

Bitch got to work immediately to create a resource guide for participants (completed January 2018), a name, and a logo for the project. Our first stories began to roll out in January. As you can see from the attached spreadsheet, we have published 12 stories over 6 months from 8 different outlets: Mother Jones, Rewire, The Nation, National Catholic Reporter, Ms., Wear Your Voice, AlterNet, and Bitch itself.

These stories covered a range of topics related to campus sexual assault including:

* Sexual Assault on Christian/Catholic Campuses (NCR, Bitch)
* Sexual Assault of Black Women on Campuses (The Nation)
* Islamophobia and Campus Sexual Assault (AlterNet)
* Failures of Law Enforcement in Supporting Survivors (Mother Jones, Ms)
* Campus Sexual Assault Starts in HIgh School (Rewire, Wear Your Voice)

The story that got the most pick-up was the National Catholic Reporter's piece on Christendom College. Evangelical colleges are not used to having a progressive spotlight turned on them in this way, and they pushed back hard.

Challenges

As noted earlier, we had difficulty at first bringing outlets into the project. However, as we explained the opportunities, more outlets have signed on. In addition to the 8 we have run so far, at least 4 more are scheduled to participate: Truthout, Making Contact, The Public Eye and Rethinking Schools. This is fewer than the 20 outlets we had set as a low bar, but reasonable during a year in which all kinds of stories have been pushed "below the fold" or offline completely by reporting on the Trump presidency.

One goal was to support outlets to collaborate with each other on stories.  In general, editors are keen to work with us and each other. The only exception has been The Nation, which worked with Andi Zeisler at Bitch to develop a story on sexual assault of black women, then did not credit DisHonorRoll. We list that story anyway, since it would not have happened if we had not run this project.

In June, we held a virtual editorial meeting attended by 7 of the outlets involved in the project. They agreed that the story they were most interested in working on jointly was the story of restorative justice--an alternative to legal enforcement which is not working well anyway. The main difficulty has been that very few universities have implemented such programs, and reporters have had trouble finding sources other than university administrators. We would appreciate any leads you may have.

Looking Ahead

We are very excited that as a result of the editorial meeting, Making Contact and Bitch are going to collaborate on an in-depth multimedia look at campus sexual assault at HBCUs.

We also have decided to make a big social media push around Back to School. Monica Cadena, Marketing and Communications manager at Wear Your Voice, has \*volunteered\* (despite an offer of compensation) to pull together a social media campaign for the project in September. We expect the Mother Jones investigation to launch then, as well as the Making Contact/ Bitch collaboration. The result should be a real trumpet blast of impact!

Financials

Finally, I'm attaching a financial report here. Most of the money for this project was front-loaded, as it needed a lot of people-time to get started. The remaining money will be spent on the project director (2000), editor (4000), freelancers (3000) and photos for Facebook (1200) with any extra dollars going to Facebook boosts. Note that money has been paid out for some articles that have been contracted but not yet launched. We fully expect to run another 12 articles from July-November, when the project will end.

We are happy to check-in by phone and provide more detail. Julie Falk is on family leave, so the Bitch work is currently captained by Andi Zeisler. Julie will be back from leave next month.

Jo Ellen

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