

Coalitions

Coalitions are a vehicle by which effective prevention plans can be developed and implemented. Coalitions include key stakeholders from campus offices and departments; community residents, business owners, and organizations; and government agencies and law enforcement. An effective coalition is able to:

- Agree on a common vision and mission
- Engage in shared decision-making
- Effectively allocate existing resources and identify new resources
- Increase program capacity
- Strengthen the ability for advocacy
- Avoid duplication of efforts
- Develop a comprehensive, strategic prevention approach
- Increase the potential for success

The composition of a coalition is more important than its size. Involving those individuals who have the ability to get things done goes much farther than being overly inclusive. A smaller group of key stakeholders will help keep the coalition focused on the mission. Being efficient and successful will help avoid 'burn out' and sustain the coalition over time.