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## **Start by Believing The Power of a Survivor-Centered Process, Sept. 19**

Ohio University College of Arts & Sciences

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# Start by Believing: The Power of a Survivor-Centered Process, Sept. 19

September 1, 2019

Categories: Events

Tags: Challenging Dialogues, events, Sociology events, women's and gender and sexuality studies events



Start by Believing: The Power of a Survivor-Centered Process is Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Athena Cinema.

Admission is free.

With the help of one brave student survivor, **Brie Sivy**, “Start by Believing” – first brought to campus by the Ohio University Police Department and the Survivor Advocacy Program – is going strong at Ohio University.

Sivy has been publicly speaking and sharing her story alongside Detective **Mathew Austin** of OUPD and **Kim Castor** of SAP since 2018. Their first presentation, to more than 200 campus and community members, spearheaded Ohio University’s “Start by Believing” campaign and highlighted how the often-traumatizing experience of working with the criminal justice system can, in fact, be empowering for survivors if a survivor-focused approach and interdisciplinary team-model are used. A well-received second presentation followed the next school year and the requests to repeat the talk came pouring in.

Hoping to keep the momentum going and reach an even wider audience, the Ohio University Police Department & Survivor Advocacy Program partnered with Ohio University’s University Communication and Marketing team to create a documentary to allow Sivy’s story to continue being told. During the 9/19/19 presentation, Sivy, Castor, and Detective Austin will present their 30-minute movie that uses Sivy’s journey from victim, to survivor, to aspiring social worker to illustrate how OUPD works to empower survivors throughout their sexual assault investigations. Attendees also will hear about trauma’s effect on memory and witness the impact possible when police and advocacy work together with a common goal.

This event is sponsored by the Ohio University Campus Involvement Center, the OUPD, the Women’s Center, and the Survivor Advocacy Program.