

Rural Justice Institute to host conference

5/30/03

More than 100 professionals whose day-to-day work involves interaction with victims of domestic violence, will gather Wednesday, June 4, on the Alfred University campus for a day-long workshop, "Domestic Violence: Training for a More Successful Response." The workshop is sponsored by Alfred University's Rural Justice Institute in conjunction with the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and ACCORD, the community action agency in Allegany County. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with sessions to run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Powell Campus Center on the AU campus. Multiple trainers from the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence will lead an interactive, problem-solving forum designed to enhance the community's response to domestic violence, said Dr. William Hall, director of the Rural Justice Institute and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University. Topics will include the nature and dynamics of domestic violence; how systems successfully work together on domestic violence cases; key issues that service providers deal with when working with other systems and possible solutions to problems; and possible next steps for developing more comprehensive training programs for area agencies, educators, health care and criminal justice personnel. There will be general sessions as well as break-out activities. Participants will include professionals from law enforcement, probation, parole, health care, the clergy, schools, domestic violence agencies, human services agency and prosecutors' staffs. The idea for the workshop, which will examine "best practices" for dealing with issues surrounding domestic violence, arose from several planning meetings conducted by the Rural Justice Institute during the 2002-2003 academic year. Funding for the conference comes from a grant to the Alfred University Rural Justice Institute from the federal Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.