

Operation: River Watch

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Operation: River Watch

Our Purpose:

Operation: River Watch is a campus-based initiative in La Crosse, Wisconsin that seeks to prevent alcohol-related tragedies that result in accidental drowning in the Mississippi River. Furthermore, Operation: River Watch seeks to cultivate and promote a stronger sense of social responsibility and safety in La Crosse's drinking culture.

- ❖ Promote student leadership on the campuses
- ❖ Have student volunteers support the organization
- ❖ Facilitate court mandated community service hours

History

- ❖ Operation: River Watch is an organization that was started October 6th, 2006 by the UWL student government
- ❖ Prior to this, Luke Homan disappeared on September 29th and was found October 4th. UWL Student government had a personal connection to Luke and voted a purposeful organization to end the trend- thus started ORW
- ❖ The men of the Sigma Tau Gamma - Beta Kappa chapter of UWL have been in close proximity to the organization being the majority of Directors since its inception

Why Did ORW Start

Richard Hlavaty (19)	- September 97
Charles Blatz (28)	- September 97
Tony Skifton (19)	- October 97
Nathan Kapfer (20)	- February 98
Jeffrey Geesey (20)	- May 99
Patrick Runingen (23)	- March 01
Jared Dion (21)	- April 04
Luke Homan (21)	- October 06

http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/police-no-sign-of-foul-play-in-latest-river-drowning/article_35d62000-36ea-59a9-bf28-196112434304.html

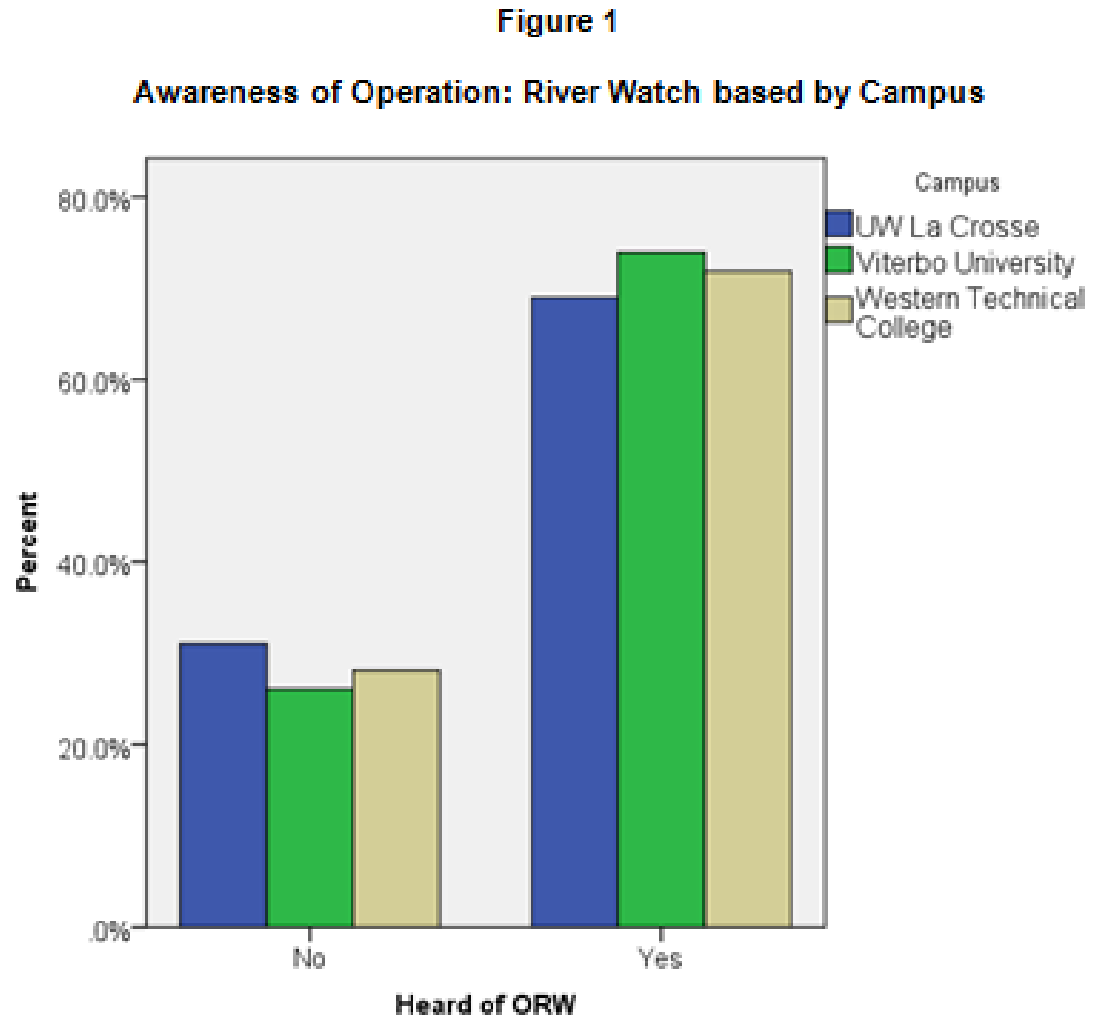
Who Makes the Organization

❖ The partnership of the organization includes pivotal community members

- Western Technical College - Troy Englerth & Ge Vang
- Viterbo - Riley Tuma
- University of Wisconsin- La Crosse - Danny Potter
- La Crosse Police Department- Reserves - Brooke Pataska
- Sometimes Globe University
- The Radisson
- YOU!

Statistics

70% of students surveyed
Viterbo (2,600) are awa

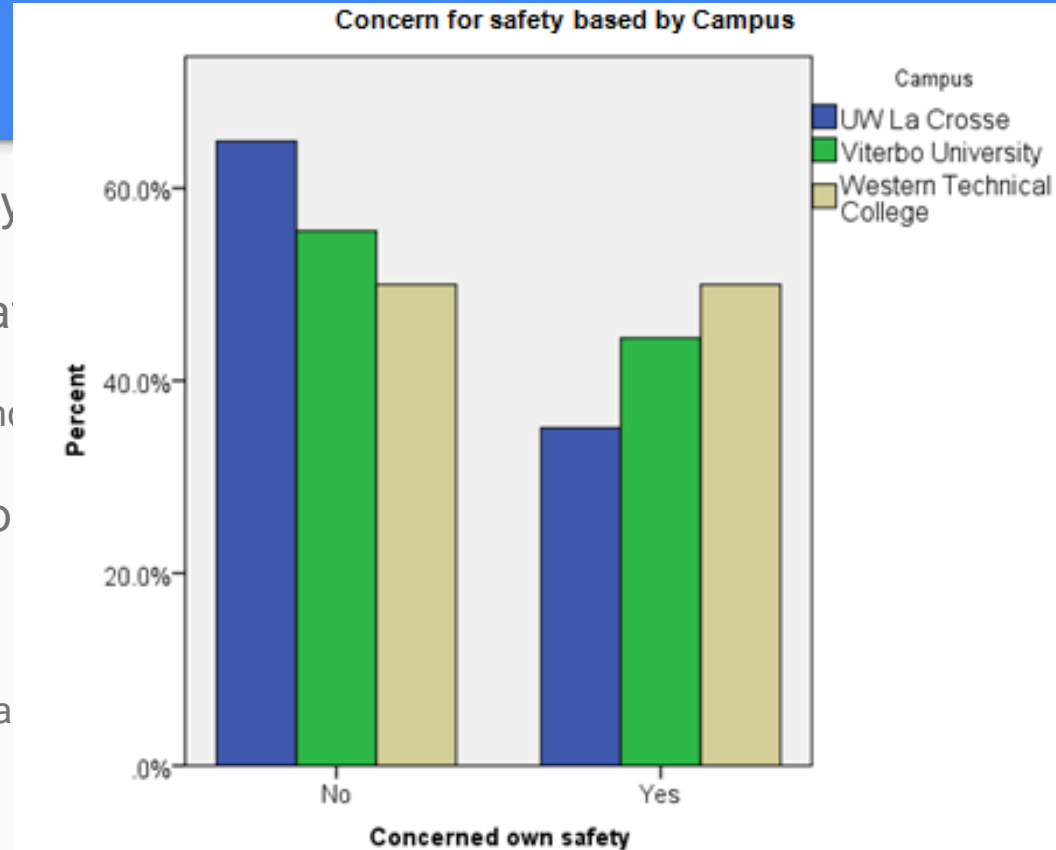


Further Statistics

- ❖ 700 or more people, on average, are turned away from the river each academic year by those volunteering for ORW
 - Survey said that students thought only 76 people on average per year
 - Highest recorded was 1,300 in 2011
- ❖ Most common way people have heard about ORW was through a friend (43%)

Further Statistics

- ❖ 39% concerned with own safety
- ❖ 81% concerned with friend's safety
 - 45% of those surveyed had a friend
- ❖ Nobody that took the survey volunteered
 - Mandated by city
 - Volunteer with friends for personal reasons
 - Mandatory organization hours



Extra Links

Greta Van Susteren Fox News Interview (2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuTicUCB5HQ>

UW- La Crosse Website

<https://www.uwlax.edu/riverwatch/>

5 Kilometer link to register/donate to ORW available on UWL website

Thank You

Questions? Interested in Volunteering?

Contact:

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