Oxnard College Denim Day: April 27, 2016

Get Your Blue Jeans On
Come out to the Quad at noon to show your support

**Denim Day Pledge**

I pledge to:

Speak out against jokes or attitudes that make light of or promote sexual violence or harassment.

Recognize and speak up when I hear statements that blame the victims.

Use my Denim Day experience as a way to talk to friends and raise awareness about sexual assault.

**If I know a survivor I will:**

Let them share their story and believe what they say and offer unconditional support.

Communicate without judgment, blame or pity.

Assure them that it wasn’t their fault.

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**What is Denim Day?**

*Italy, 1990s*

An 18-year old girl is picked up by her married 45-year old driving instructor for her very first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans and forcefully rapes her. Threatened with death if she tells anyone, he makes her drive the car home. Later that night she tells her parents, and they help and support her to press charges. The perpetrator is arrested and prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail.

He appeals the sentence. The case makes it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court. Within a matter of days the case against the driving instructor is overturned, dismissed, and the perpetrator released. In a statement by the Chief Judge, he argued, "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

Enraged by the verdict, within a matter of hours the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans to work.