



RUSA Resolution S19-03

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Sponsors: Health and Wellness Committee, RUSA Executive Committee

Resolution to Support The Bandana Project

Whereas, suicide is the second leading cause of death, after traffic accidents, among college students,¹

Whereas, there are more than 1,000 suicides on college campuses annually in the United States, before graduation,²

Whereas, 1 in 10 students will have considered suicide, and students aged 15-24 are in the highest risk group for a majority of mental illnesses, though 1 in 4 will neither seek treatment nor other help,³

Whereas, the stigma around mental health can prevent those who struggle with mental health issues from seeking treatment,⁴ and approachable students spreading awareness of resources for their fellow students with mental illnesses can help to fight the stigma,

Whereas, the Assembly has previously budgeted funds for initiatives of the Assembly and of its committees for the benefit of the undergraduate student body,

Whereas, through The Bandana Project, green bandanas are distributed to students on campus to be tied to backpacks as a show of solidarity with students with mental illnesses and to serve as an indicator that students with these bandanas have resource cards that can direct them towards mental health resources,

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/02/well/preventing-suicide-among-college-students.html>

² <http://aminds.umn.edu/bandana-project>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3698814/>

Whereas, other Big Ten universities have recently launched The Bandana Project, such as the University of Wisconsin where over 6,000 bandanas were distributed on campus for the Fall 2018 semester,⁵ and

Whereas, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) believes in protecting the health of students and our Rutgers community as a whole, as well as sharing resources available to students,

Be it hereby resolved, RUSA will support the efforts of The Bandana Project starting in the Spring 2019 semester;

Be it further resolved, the Health & Wellness Committee shall be charged with coordinating and overseeing the project, using the general committee budget to fund the initiative; and

Be it finally resolved that the Assembly hereby encourages its members, other student organizations on campus, and members of the Rutgers—New Brunswick community to participate in The Bandana Project.

⁵ <https://www.namiuw.org/the-bandana-project.html>