Policy Statement

A primary concern of the Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) is the health and well-being of each student; therefore, WATC is committed to creating a community that is free from acts of Dating Violence. Not unlike Domestic Violence, Dating Violence is controlling, abusive and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It occurs in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships and can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of these. Abusive partners may use a combination of the following tactics to control, manipulate and abuse a partner:

- **Physical** – Hitting, pinching, shoving, restraining, destroying property, choking, threats of harm
- **Sexual** – rape, sexual abuse, or any coercion or manipulation of a partner to engage in sexual behaviors
- **Emotional** – insults, name-calling, yelling, threats, stalking, extreme jealousy, humiliating a partner in public or private, isolating a partner from friends or family, threatening to “out” a partner who is gay, lesbian or transgender, making someone account for their time, threats to harm themselves

Dating abuse occurs in all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious groups.

**Dating Violence-WATC Policy and Kansas Law**

Kansas has laws against Dating Violence behaviors such as sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. However, the specific term “dating violence” is not used in these laws. Any and all forms of “Dating Violence” will not be tolerated on WATC’s properties or at WATC events. Any reported incidents will be addressed by the Vice President of Student Services and staff from WATC’s Safety and Security Team within 48 hrs. if feasible. A determination will be made on a case by case basis as it pertains to whether the incident of Dating Violence falls under current WATC Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence or Anti-Stalking policies. The appropriate criteria of those policies will be the basis of the review and investigation of Dating Violence incidents.

**Policy Owner – Position Title**
Safety and Security Director