

## Social Work Student Serves as Community Advocate in Efforts to Combat Sexual Assault

Dozens of Barry students have signed up to be allies of the sexual assault survivor community – and their decision came with some help.

Odet Sanchez, a community advocate in the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, encouraged her peers to join in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault. She also told them about the many ways survivors are often blamed for their own victimization.

Sanchez is a senior majoring in social work with a minor in psychology. She was inspired to pursue a social work degree after meeting with an academic advisor at her transfer institution, Miami Dade College. However, it was the Barry Service Corps that encouraged her to apply for the community advocate position.



Sanchez hosted a sexual assault awareness campaign on campus, which caught the attention of about 40 students. Some of those students have committed themselves to spreading the message off campus and to be supportive of people in the local community who have been victimized. The sexual assault awareness campaign is part of Odet's community involvement. Next year, she plans to shift her attention to human trafficking. She hopes to help in shedding light on the prevalence of human trafficking in Miami while spreading information about the warning signs of potential human trafficking.

## **Community Engagement News**

Newsletter of the Center for Community Service Initiatives

**Barry University** 

November 18, 2019