The event began with a march beginning outside the Merrill-Cazier Library and ending in the TSC Access and Diversity Center.

“I was in the library, and I walked out and I saw all these people marching with signs and I followed them because, you know, how can you not follow a large group of people carrying signs and chanting something?” said USU student Taylor Harman. “So you know, I thought it was cool.”

The remainder of the event was a program that hosted a variety of speakers, including personal experiences shared by Leah Adkins.

“I want to thank you for being willing to go out there and raise your voices and stand up,” Adkins said. “Before I was a college student, I was date-raped. I was engaged to him, I said no, and I felt responsible and I was made to feel responsible many years after. You are not responsible. If you say no, no means no. It does not just stop. It does not just stop with date rape.”

Steffen Saffron, a peer educator with SAVVI, talked about the power of advocacy for sexual assault and rape victims.

“I think what we can do is to number one, say I am willing to take a stand,” she said. “I’m willing to try to get help for someone instead of walking away and saying, ‘Oh, I don’t want to get involved. There might be retaliation or I don’t know what to say.’ Just say, ‘No, I will be someone of advocacy. I will be somebody who will stand up if I hear someone has been sexually assaulted or raped if there is any domestic violence anywhere.’ That can’t be allowed in your book. If we don’t act on it, it will keep on going.”

Dr. Taira Koybaeva, founder and CEO of diversity business group Go Global Fast, LLC, also discussed ways victims can find solace.

“If and when it happens, it is something that can not even be actively described because it is like a diamond inside of you,” Koybaeva said. “The inner development of the heart is a precious thing. Such people become a blessing because only they can understand how another one can feel.”

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