

Ursidae: The Undergraduate Research Journal at the University of Northern Colorado

Volume 3 | Number 1

Article 10

January 2013

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Recommended Citation

Koppel, Lauren (2013) "Already On the Outside: Feminist Identity Development Among Women on a College Campus," *Ursidae: The Undergraduate Research Journal at the University of Northern Colorado*: Vol. 3 : No. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <http://digscholarship.unco.edu/urj/vol3/iss1/10>

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Already On the Outside: Feminist Identity Development Among Women on a College Campus

Higher Education & Student Affairs Leadership

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Faculty Sponsor(s): Hawthorne, Barbara

Being a feminist like any social constructed identity is not essential to the character but rather develops throughout time. The body of literature around Feminist Identity Development frequently features college women as participants and yet the literature has a conspicuous absence in examining how the factors present on a college campus assist Feminist Identity Development. A review of semi-structured hour-long interviews with three self-identified feminist women, anthologized accounts by feminists, and a review of college campus environments will better inform the literature around Feminist Identity Development in regards to the role of the college campus. My study indicates that the college campus does assist Feminist Identity Development through exposure to sexism and feminism, the ability to create safe space and engage in discourse, and the opportunity for self-reflections and synthesis of identity. One of the birth places of feminism is the American College Campus. To achieve feminist goals in American society means fostering and promoting feminism on college campuses.