



August 21, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

This past April I had the pleasure of working with one of the best Sexual Assault Awareness speakers this campus has ever seen—Ms. Kimleigh Smith. I was very new to my role at The Phoenix Center at Auraria when I was tasked with finding a speaker for April, arguably our biggest event of the year. I knew right away that I was looking for someone very special.

I think it is easy for college campuses to bring someone dry for Sexual Assault Awareness. It is a challenging topic in so many ways. It's hard to get folks to sacrifice study or relaxation time to learn more about sexual assault on college campuses. It's hard for survivors to listen to someone else's story without being triggered. It's hard to make healing from trauma both entertaining *and* productive. Kimleigh exceeded all of our expectations in light of these many challenges.

Kimleigh's story is raw and honest in a way unlike any other speaker I have seen—on this topic or any other. She speaks to students in such a brave fashion; it is impossible not to be moved by her story and recovery. She inspired so much learning and healing in just over an hour. Students shared feedback such as:

"Thank you for sharing with us. This touched me, and has helped me to heal a little more"

"Kimleigh is a badass!"

Feedback for this event was *overwhelmingly* positive and attendance was impressive for our difficult, commuter student population. Most importantly, though, was the impact of Kimleigh's performance. So many survivors in the audience were forwarded in their healing process because of how Kimleigh shared her story. So many friends and bystanders learned how to help someone who may have experienced sexual violence. My only regret about bringing Kimleigh to our campus for Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2014 is that we cannot bring her back EVERY year.

I strongly recommend Kimleigh for your next Sexual Assault Awareness and/or Take Back the Night presentation. Your students have so much to learn from her, whether survivors themselves, support persons, or folks who think they are not affected by sexual violence. *T-O-T-A-L-L-Y!* should be mandatory viewing for any and every college student.

Sincerely,
Sarah J. Berg
Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
The Phoenix Center at Auraria