Student retracts rape allegations

By Adhiraj Dutt
Daily Staff Reporter

The 18-year-old Washtenaw Community College student who claimed she was sexually assaulted on the campus early last week retracted her story, Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Commander Dave Egeler said.

After the student reported being pulled into a van and raped while walking through a campus parking lot, WCC began a community-wide effort to raise safety awareness.

The future of the student remains uncertain. Hawkins said.

“Other safety measures include campus-wide e-mails and notices containing safety information. We have had an escort service, and from time to time we post notices in the school newspaper and on bulletin boards,” Hawkins said.

“It is possible that someone could recant their story to avoid embarrassment, but we know that is not the case here,” he said. “At this point the claim of being sexually assaulted is unfounded.”

Initially, the WCC student’s rape claim was thought to be linked to another incident in which a woman was found...
avoid embarrassment, but we know that is not the case here.”

– Janet Hawkins
Spokeswoman, Washtenaw Community College

running shirtless down Geddes Road in Superior Township last Tuesday. But Egeler confirmed that the two assault cases are not linked.

Safety procedures available to students at the University include SAFE Walk 24 hours a day, taking students from buildings on campus to any destination that is within a one-mile drive or 20-minutes walk from the Central or North campus diags.

Night Ride and Ride Home, the University’s cab services, are also available to students as an alternative to walking.

Blue light emergency phones located across the University’s campus provide students with a direct connection to the Department of Public Safety to report any crimes.