



Campus Connect: A Suicide Prevention Training for Gatekeepers

Setting
Higher Education

Type of Program
Education & Training

NSSP Goals Addressed
6.5

Program Description

Developed by the Syracuse University Counseling Center, *Campus Connect* is a gatekeeper training program for college and university faculty, staff, and students. The experientially based training is designed to enhance participant's knowledge, awareness, and skills concerning college student suicide. Specifically, *Campus Connect* aims to increase participant's knowledge about suicide statistics, risk and protective factors, warning signs, and referral resources; to increase empathic listening skills, communication skills, and the ability to ask individuals if they are thinking about suicide; and to increase self-awareness concerning the potential emotional reactions gatekeepers may experience when interacting with students in crisis.

Campus Connect is highly interactive, with gatekeepers participating in multiple exercises throughout the training to increase both their skills and awareness concerning the emotional intensity of responding to suicidal college students. The two-and half hour training culminates with a role play, in which gatekeepers are given the opportunity to practice the skills they are taught during the course of the training.

Program Objectives

After training, participants will have

1. Increased knowledge of suicide warning signs and referral points for students at risk for suicide.
2. Increased skills to respond to college students at-risk for suicide.
3. Increased self-efficacy regarding their ability to respond to a student at-risk for suicide.

Implementation Essentials

- Completion of the *Campus Connect* readiness checklist to ensure that the campus is adequately prepared for program implementation. (Although not an implementation essential, a [Framework for Developing Institutional Protocols for the Acutely Distressed or Suicidal College Student](#), developed by the Jed Foundation, may be useful. It is found in Section II of the Best Practices Registry.)
- Training conducted by qualified Campus Connect trainer.

Contact Information

Cory Wallack, Ph.D. or
 Susan Pasco, LCSW-R
 Syracuse University Counseling Center
 200 Walnut Place
 Syracuse, NY 13244-2480
 Voice: 315-443-4715
 Fax: 315-443-4276
 Email (Wallack): cwallack@syr.edu
 Email (Pasco): sdpasco@syr.edu

Costs

Train-the-trainer workshop \$4,500.

 Fee includes: six-hour train-the-trainer session, training manual for each participant, consultation prior to and following the training, and travel costs.

*The content of practices listed in Section III (Adherence to Standards) of the SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry address specific goals of the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and have been reviewed by a panel of three suicide prevention experts and found to meet standards of accuracy, safety, and programmatic guidelines. Practices were not reviewed for evidence of effectiveness. Additional information about the Best Practices Registry can be found at www.sprc.org.

The Best Practices Registry is supported by a grant (1 U79 SM57392-03) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). No official endorsement by SAMHSA or DHHS for the information in this document is intended or should be inferred.