

Expanding and Enriching the Network of Student Support on Campus

Peer Programs for Campus
Suicide Prevention

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National Data on Students Considering Suicide

- 46% never talk to anyone else about thoughts or suicidal attempts
- Of those who talked to others, 67% first told a friend/peer
- Of those who talked to others, 52% found it helpful and 58% were advised to seek professional help

Chris Brownson, University of Texas, Austin
National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers (2006)

WPI Student Support Network (SSN)

- Identifying and selecting student participants
 - E-mail to faculty and staff
 - General advertising/programming
 - Training SSN participants
 - Knowledge
 - Skills
 - Perspectives
 - Stigma reduction/connection
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Evaluating SSN Outcomes

(based on 64 student participants)

- Pre/post SIRI II results indicate significantly better crisis responding skills
 - Students demonstrated significant improvement in the following areas:
 - Recognizing warning signs for suicide
 - Making appropriate referrals for support
 - Convincing someone to get help
 - Discussing suicide with others
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Empowering and Supporting Student Initiatives

- Specialized training offered in key areas
- Supporting additional opportunities for student involvement
 - Programming
 - Marketing
- Starting a chapter of Active Minds at WPI

Evolving the model

Student Participant Perspectives

- “The series opened doors to talking about issues generally classified as taboo. The easy-going, relaxed atmosphere made it very comfortable to talk and learn.”
 - “It was worthwhile because I got to know the SDCC staff and learn of the resources available for troubled students.”
 - “I feel it helped me realize how to help others cope with their problems and also how to better cope with my own. Most importantly, I feel like I could actually help someone talk about and solve their issues.”
 - “It was worthwhile because even if I don’t feel that I have used this in college, it is something that I can use for the rest of my life.”
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