

# **The Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program: Implementation Strategies, Successes, and Challenges**

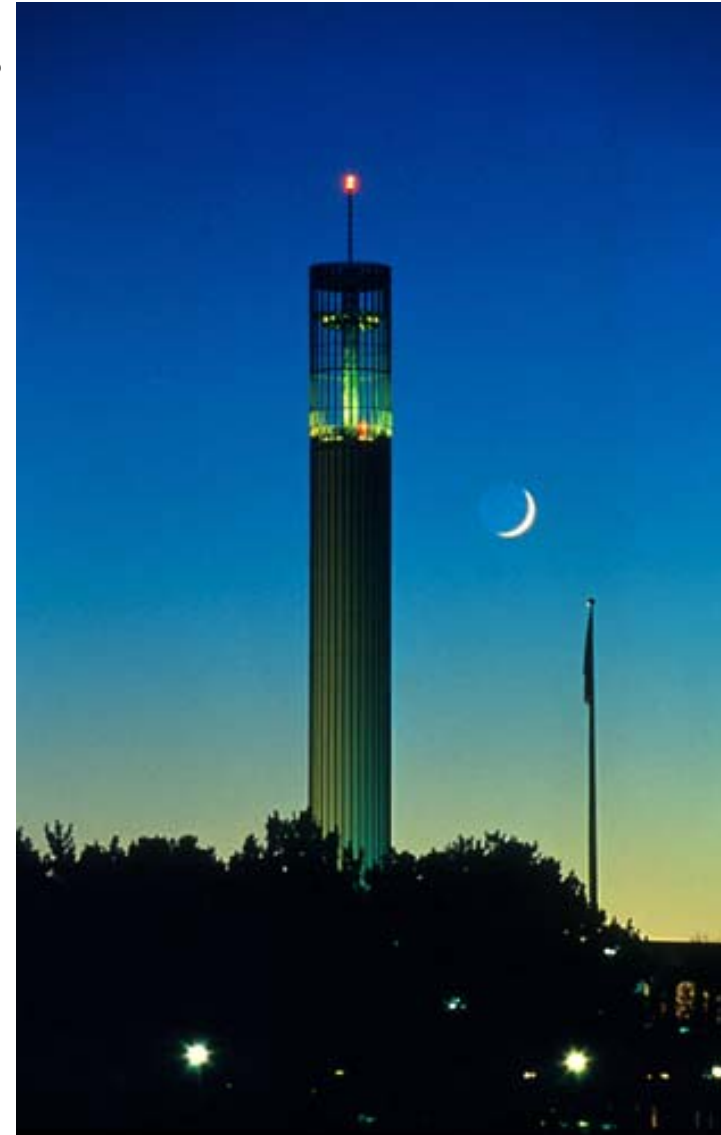
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**Forging Our Legacy: Creating and Sustaining A Cultural Shift on Campus**  
SAMHSA Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program  
Grantee Technical Assistance Meeting  
Kansas City, Missouri - January 8-10, 2008

# University at Albany Institutional Profile

- University Center within 64-campus SUNY System
- Urban Setting
- Research University
- NCAA Division I
- Students:
  - Undergraduates - 12,457
  - Graduate Students - 4,977
- Faculty: 967
- Employees: 4,197
- Degree Programs:
  - Undergraduate - 61
  - Masters - 89
  - Doctorate - 39

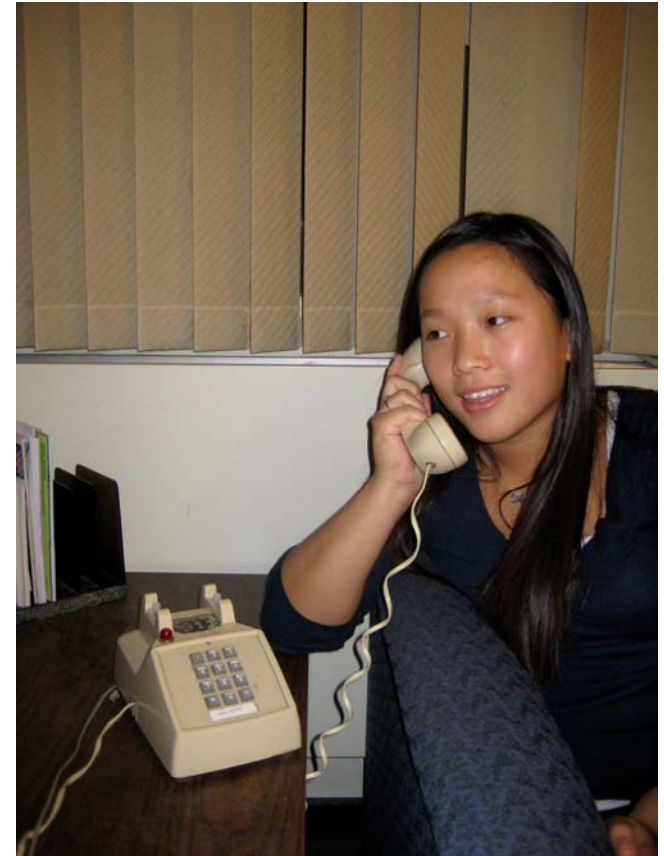


# Our Mission: Students Helping Students™

- Provide peer counseling and peer education services to support academic success and personal and social growth and development
- Enhance responsiveness and sensitivity to diversity issues on and off campus

## Where We Fit on Campus

- Peer assistance arm of University Counseling Center, Division of Student Success
- Student government-recognized and funded student organization



# Program Components

## Hotline

- open noon-midnight, Mon.-Thurs. & 24 hours on weekends
- over 1,600 contacts per year, 10% involve suicide-homicide risk
- serves campus and community
- only hotline of its type in Albany

## Peer Education

- provides peer education workshops for campus and community
- coordinates Sexuality Week and other campus-wide theme weeks
- sponsors the ***Middle Earth Players***, a campus theater group
- authors *Middle Earth Roots* help column and a radio talk show on WCDB 90.9FM

## Staff Training and Staff Development

- trains undergraduate students in hotline counseling, peer education, and important campus issues
- offers academic course credit (6 undergraduate courses, 2 graduate courses)
- prepares students for careers in the helping/ human services fields

# Program Staffing and Funding

## Staff:

- Director (Licensed Psychologist)
- Undergraduate Student Officers/Executive Board
- 2 Psychology Interns
- 2 Graduate Assistants
- 85 Hotline Counselors
- 25 Peer Educators
- 50 Trainees

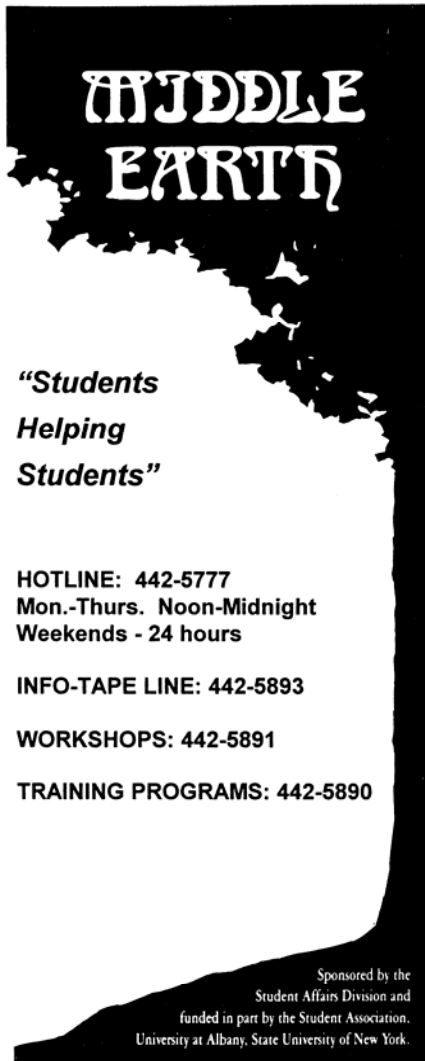


## Funding:

- University
- Student Government
- Private/Corporate Donations
- Federal Grants



# Challenges



- Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Supervision
- Professional Backup/Coverage Issues
- Liability Issues
- MYTH: Training Peers is More “Cost Effective” for Institution

# For Further Information

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