Senior Administrator Buy In

SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Grantee
Technical Assistance Meeting
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Kansas City, Missouri

Presented by:
Jackie Elliott, Vice President for Student Affairs
Northwest Missouri State University

Key Factors

• Educational
• Financial
• Legal
• Culture & Climate
• Public Relations
At the end of the day, even administrators are responsible for fulfilling the mission of the institution.

Educational

- Link strategies to institutional mission
- Link strategies to academic outcomes, i.e. learning objectives
- Provide training and resources to faculty in dealing with distressed students
- Road Show – take your program on the road
Financial

- Demonstrate how services improve retention
- Institute health fee to support services/program
- Plan for sustainability

Legal

- Current law and trends. Standard of care set by Supreme Court of Iowa in Jain v. Iowa. Implications of Shin v. MIT.
- Virginia Tech
- ADA and FERPA
- Get institution legal counsel involved
Culture/Climate

- Track counseling services
  - Referrals
- Changes in behaviors
  - Quantitative and Qualitative data
- Residential Life - Gatekeeper
- Give key individuals responsibility:
  - Registrar, academic deans, dean of students, advisement, first year experience staff, student services staff

Public Relations

- Become PR experts
- Get the media to do stories on your grant/program/services
- Have students “tell their story”
- Get “what you do out there”
- Develop strong community support and relationships
Other Thoughts

• No surprises – administrators do not like to be caught off guard; keep them informed
• Be informed and knowledgeable about how suicide impacts all facets of the institution – have the data
  – Know trends and new legislation
  – Read the Chronicle of Higher Education

Other Thoughts

• Billie Joel – “everyone is practicing politics”
• Look for the “low impact” opportunities
• Build relationships with key administrators – take them to lunch, everyone needs to eat
The Rule of “Be”

Be:
“in touch”
“informed”
“intentional”
“institutional thinker”
“influential”

“instructional”
“innovative”
“integrated”
“in gratitude”
“interested”

Thank You

Contact information: jackiee@nwmissouri.edu