Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention

Annual Report

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
ALBERTI CENTER MISSION

The mission of the Alberti Center is to reduce bullying abuse in schools and in the community by contributing knowledge and providing evidence-based tools to effectively change the language, attitudes, and behaviors of educators, parents, students, and society. The center will be a national resource on the prevention of bullying and other antisocial behaviors among school children, as well as provide research and information that address these behaviors.

HISTORY OF THE CENTER

A generous gift from Graduate School of Education alumna Jean M. Alberti (PhD ’70, Educational Psychology) established the Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence (Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention) at the University at Buffalo. The center was introduced to the public on April 27, 2010, through its symposium, "Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence," and was officially launched in July of 2011, when Amanda Nickerson, PhD, became the inaugural director.
STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND IMPACT

It takes the collaboration of an entire team to achieve the level of productivity and influence the Alberti Center has maintained this year. This annual report highlights these achievements as they relate to the mission and vision of the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention, the Graduate School of Education (GSE), and the University at Buffalo. We showcase our partners, including faculty affiliates, advisory council members, researchers, students, funders, sponsors, award winners, and community members throughout this report. These partnerships remain instrumental in fulfilling the mission of the Center and maximizing our impact on bullying and school violence prevention.

In continuing our mission of contributing knowledge, faculty members affiliated with the Alberti Center have published their work in peer refereed journals and presented at a number of professional conferences relevant to the Center’s research. Faculty members have continued to actively pursue and secure external funding for research and evaluation projects. Many have received honors and appointments in recognition of their academic contributions. The Center supports the efforts of exceptional early career scholars in the field of bullying abuse prevention through an annual Alberti Center Early Career Award.

A primary focus of the Alberti Center, GSE, and UB is providing evidence-based tools to our schools and communities as we strive to improve the quality of life through engagement. In this report, we recognize our advisory council, consisting of internationally renowned scholars, and pillars of the Western New York community representing the fields of law, education, and human services. We also highlight the numerous presentations we have conducted in schools and communities in and outside of New York State. We participate in a number of sponsored events throughout the year, including our annual conference, colloquium series, BAND Against Bullying performing arts competition for area high schools, and several others included in this report.

The Alberti Center actively supports the GSE’s pedagogy of inquiry, engagement, and impact. Our contributions in this area have benefitted both UB students as well as practitioners. As a New York State Education Department approved provider we continue to offer the Dignity for All Students Act training to hundreds of students each year. We are excited to celebrate our successes in this annual report and recognize the talents and generosity of our partners as we all work towards reducing bullying abuse in our schools and communities.
Peer Refereed Journal Articles


Book Chapters


Other Publications


**Professional Presentations**


**Invited Professional Presentations**

Nickerson, A. B. (2017, June). *PREPaRE workshop 2 training of trainers: Crisis intervention and recovery*. Workshop presented at the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan, Detroit, MI.


Funded Research


Nickerson, A. B. (PI); “Randomized controlled trial of Second Step Child Protection Unit.” Committee for Children ($500,000). 5/1/2017-7/31/2019.


Pending Proposals

Nickerson, A.B. (PI); “Multi-media peer-to-peer abuse prevention.” New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. ($175,000).

Grant Proposals Submitted


Lemke, M. (PI) and Nickerson, A.B. (Co-I); “Locating the global within the local: Understanding school responses to youth displacement.” UB Community for Global Health Equity ($48,343). 9/17-6/19 – unfunded.

Nickerson, A. B. and Jimerson, S. (Multiple PI); “Impact of comprehensive school safety training on preparedness, interdisciplinary collaboration, and school climate.” Institute of Education Science ($2,419,168).
Honors and Appointments

Kishel, B.
Advisory Committee Member, BAND Against Bullying (11/14-present)
Community Advisory Committee, Center for Disability Studies at UB
Executive Board, Disability Education and Advocacy Network (DEAN) of WNY
Fundraising committee member, Parent Network of WNY (1/17-9/17)
Planning Committee Member, Spread the Word to End the Word (3/14-present)

Nickerson, A. B.
Advisory Member, Long Island School Practitioner Action Network (1/15-present)
Advisory Committee Member, BAND Against Bullying (11/12-present)
Consultant, NIJ grant to Campbell County Schools, KY (2017-2020)
Fellow, American Psychological Association (Division 16)
STAR Research Award, University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education, 2015-2016

Reynolds, A. | Fellow, American Psychological Association Div. 17
(Society of Counseling Psychology)

Treadway, D. C. | Founding Fellow, U.S. Academy on Workplace Bullying, Mobbing, and Abuse

Alberti Center Early Career Award (2016)

RECIPIENT – Lyndsay N. Jenkins, PhD, NCSP, Department of Psychology | Eastern Illinois University

This award recognizes Dr. Jenkins as an individual who has made exemplary scholarly contributions to the field of bullying abuse prevention and conducted research that has the potential to influence practice and policy.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS


**ENGAGING: INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIONS/EVENTS**

**Advisory Council**

**Lana D. Benatovich**, President | National Federation for Just Communities of WNY

**Vito Borrello**, Executive Director | National Association for Family, School, & Community Engagement

**Anna R. Cieri, PhD**, Assist. Superintendent, Exceptional Education and Student Services | Williamsville Central School District

**Dewey G. Cornell, PhD**, Professor and Endowed Chair, Education | University of Virginia

**Janice L. DeLucia, PhD**, Associate Professor, Counseling, School, & Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

**Dorothy L. Espelage, PhD**, Professor, Education Psychology | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Bruce Goldstein**, Special Counsel | Kenney, Shelton, Liptak, Nowak, LLP

**Jamie M. Ostrov, PhD**, Professor, Psychology | University at Buffalo

**Kevin Penberthy, LCSW**, Deputy Director, Regional Office | New York State OPWDD

**Debra Pepler, PhD**, Distinguished Research Professor | York University

**Amy L. Reynolds, PhD**, Associate Professor, Counseling, School, & Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

**Reed Stewart, LCSW-R**, Program Director, Beacon Health Strategies

**Susan M. Swearer, PhD**, Professor, School Psychology | University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Faculty Affiliates

Ariel Aloe, PhD, Research Scientist, Graduate School of Education | University at Buffalo & Assistant Professor | University of Iowa

Laura Anderson, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing | University at Buffalo

Julie Bowker, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology | University at Buffalo

Catherine P. Cook-Cottone, PhD., Associate Professor, Counseling, School, & Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

Janice L. DeLucia, PhD, Associate Professor, Counseling, School, & Educational Psychology and Program Director, School Counseling | University at Buffalo

Rina D. Eiden, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, Research Institute on Addictions | University at Buffalo

Jennifer Livingston, PhD, Research Scientist, Research Institute on Addictions | University at Buffalo

Jamie M. Ostrov, PhD, Professor, Psychology | University at Buffalo

Amy L. Reynolds, PhD, Associate Professor, Counseling, School, & Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

Darren Treadway, PhD, Associate Professor, Organization and HR | University at Buffalo
Presentations in the Community


Toni Torchia. (2016, September). Presentation on overview of the Alberti Center at Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting.


2016–17 Colloquium Series

**October, 2016 – Idean Ettekal, PhD**  
Project Director | Research Institute on Addictions | University at Buffalo

*Exploring the Stability and Instability of Aggressors, Victims, and Aggressive-Victims from Childhood to Adolescence* — 50 Attendees

**November, 2016 – Catherine Cook-Cottone, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Licensed Psychologist, and Registered Yoga Teacher | Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

*Trauma Informed Mindfulness and Yoga in the Schools: Tools for Prevention, Growth, and Healing* — 65 Attendees

**February, 2017 - Dignity Act Coordinator Panel**

**Moderator - Kathleen Allen, PhD**, Training and Evaluation Specialist | UB Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention

**Panel Members:**  
Patricia Balthasar, School Counselor | Cleveland Hill Middle School  
William Bohen, Assistant Principal | Transit Middle School  
John Starkey, Principal | Lafayette High School  
David Hills, Principal | Waterfront Elementary, BPS #95  
Amy Borowiak, Guidance Counselor | Waterfront Elementary, BPS #95

*Dignity Act: Best Practices, Challenges, and Recommendations*  
40 Attendees

**April, 2017 – Myles Faith, PhD**  
Professor and Associate Chair | Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

*Weight Teasing and Bullying in Children: Assessment, Prevalence, and Comorbidities* — 15 Attendees
Alberti Center Annual Conference – September 29, 2016

Morning Keynote Presentation:

*Bullying and Students with Disabilities: Predictive and Protective Factors, Current Intervention Efforts, and Future Directions*

Chad A. Rose, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education
University of Missouri

Breakout Sessions:

*Disability Law*
Bruce Goldstein, Esq., *Special Counsel* | Kenney, Shelton, Liptak, Nowak, LLP

*Creating a Safe School Environment for ALL Students*
Cathy Miller and Michelle Washington, *School Counselors* | Ken-Ton School District

*Embracing Diversity – sponsored by embraceWNY*
Aimee Levesque, *Lecturer*, Buffalo State College | *PhD candidate*, University at Buffalo | *Member*, New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

*Mental Health – A Walk in Our Shoes: What Helps and What Harms*
Caitlin Neumann, *Youth Peer Mentor*, Mental Health Association | *President*, Youth Power’s Board of Directors

*Bullying...A Parent’s Perspective*
Kristi Moscato, *Outreach Manager*, Parent Network of WNY

*Self-Advocacy Panel*
Mike Rogers – *moderator*
Cammie Stamp
Gwen Squires
Jessica Levesque
Jessica Levesque
Nathaniel Wilkins
Shanita Wilson
Afternoon Keynote Presentation

Bullying and Students with Disabilities

Julie M. Hertzog, MA
Director | PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center

2016 Conference Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor
New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Platinum Sponsor
embraceWNY

Gold Sponsors
Buffalo Teachers Federation
National Federation for Just Communities of WNY, Inc.
Parent Network of WNY
People Inc.
UB Graduate School of Education
UB Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Co-Sponsored Events

Several local schools participate in BAND Against Bullying by integrating the arts into a theatrical, dance or musical performance related to the theme of Dignity. The acts are evaluated by a panel of judges on their illustration of dignity awareness. All participating schools perform at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts. It is an eventful evening, including valuable information on bullying awareness, exceptional talent and collaboration among students, and an opportunity to raise money for the prevention of bullying in schools. Proceeds benefit each participating school, and the continued development of the program.

BAND Against Bullying V (April 2017) Presented by M&T Band, Kiss 98.5, University at Buffalo

UB 13th annual Safe Schools Seminar (March 2017) Preventing and Responding to Violent Threats: Tools for Schools and Law Enforcement, 900+ attendees (school personnel, law enforcement, etc.)

Alberti Center Presence at Other Events/Venues


Character Carnival. (2017, March). Sponsored by the Character Council of WNY. The HUB.


Spread the Word to End the Word. (2017, March). Various locations in the community.


Disability History event. (2016, October). Buffalo Downtown Library

Media Coverage & Press Releases

The Debate Around How to Make a Safer School – (2017, July 17)

Experts discuss cyberbullying and how to tackle a 24/7 torment – (2017, May 9)

Cyberbullying: A Relentless Cycle – (2017, May 9)

Nine local schools to compete in 'BAND Against Bullying' competition – (2017, April 25)

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Expert Dr. Amanda Nickerson leads Webinar on the Importance of Building SEL Strengths in Students – (2017, April 5)

UB to host 14th annual Safe Schools Initiative Seminar March 23 – (2017, March 2)

UB researchers to evaluate effectiveness of sex-abuse prevention program – (2017, March 1)

UB to lead $500,000 study on sexual abuse in schools – (2017, March 1)

The Stories of the Survivors – (2017, February 28)

Family Support May Protect Against Substance Use After Bullying – (2017, January 31)
Adopt-A-Family makes the holidays brighter for 40 families this season – (2016, December 22)

Dr. Amanda Nickerson Talks About Bullying and the Significance of this October in Schools Across the Country – (2016, October 19)

Research on Substance Abuse and Bullying Yields Some Surprising Findings - 10/13/16

Bullying and People with Disabilities – (2016, September 30)

Conference to address bullying and persons with disabilities – (2016, September 26)

UB experts to speak as National Prevention Network Conference visits Buffalo – (2016, September 1)

Self Advocacy in Action: Interview with Amanda Nickerson from the Alberti Center about Bullying and People with Disabilities – (2016, August 24)

Culture, Power, and the Social Dynamics of Bullying: Our Role in Prevention and Intervention – (2016, July 19)

Social Media Efforts/Center Reach

Facebook: 593 Followers

Twitter: 690 Followers

Constant Contact: 1125 Contacts

LinkedIn: 84 Members

Instagram: 10 Followers
Pedagogy of Inquiry, Engagement and Impact

NYSED Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Training for Certification

DASA Participants from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Total number of registrants: 366 students

Kathleen Allen, DASA Training for employees at Baker Hall. *Training in Harassment, Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Discrimination in Schools: Prevention and Intervention.* March 2017. 60 attendees