



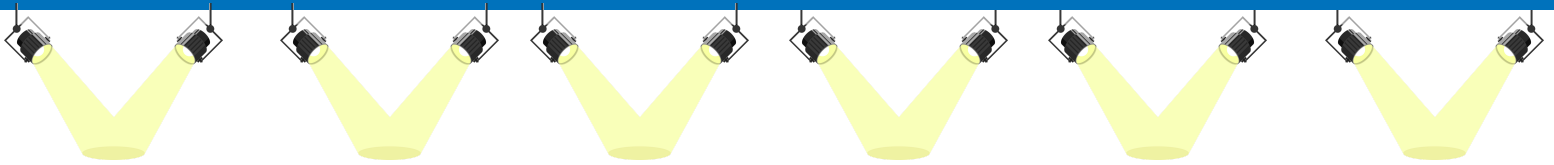
OHIO PROGRAM *for*  
**CAMPUS SAFETY  
& MENTAL HEALTH**  
A NEOMED CC&E

# ***The Campus Connection***

Keeping Ohio's campuses and communities of learning connected quarterly.

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3rd Edition



## **Campus-Community Spotlight: A Shining STAR at the University of Toledo**

STAR is a suicide prevention and mental health promotion initiative by the University of Toledo Counseling Center, and was founded by Dr. La Tasha Sullivan, Amanda Jones, Dr. Cassandra Haas, Alexandria Carlson, and Valerie David. The initiative aims to empower individuals to ask for help as well as how to support someone in need of help by providing trainings, promoting a Community of Care, and spreading prevention messaging. STAR itself is an acronym focused on both the helper and the person in need of support. For those helping, STAR stands for See the clues, Talk and actively listen, Ask about suicide, and Refers and follow up. For those in need of support, STAR stands for See the clues, Talk and listen, Answer the question honestly, and Recieve the referral. Students, faculty, and staff aren't the only ones being encouraged to contribute to this blossoming Community of Care, as alumni, alumni, University of Toledo community members, and family of students are also welcome to participate in STAR training! Since beginning to offer trainings during the 2022-2023 academic year, 385 people have been impacted, and that number only continues to grow, along with the STAR initiative itself. During the 2023-2024 academic year, STAR is looking to expand its programming working to empower individuals that are victims/survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual assault (SA) and are on their healing journey. In collaboration with the Toledo YWCA Hope Center, the University of Toledo Counseling Center has been able to offer onsite advocacy for survivors. This partnership fills a gap by increasing access to care, visibility for a vulnerable population, and addressing a high at-risk population for suicide and homicide suicide. Additionally, they are hard at work to create new STAR visuals, such as the powerful PSA they created in 2022, which can be viewed [here](#). Efforts are being made to make STAR a campus community coalition and, and the initiative was one of the inaugural groups to be included in the Ohio Coalition Institute this year. When asked what her advice would be to other campuses looking to engage students as successfully as the STAR initiative has, Dr. Sullivan had the following to share: "Gather a strong dedicated team that is passionate about this work. We started small but were clear on our campus need and goal. Identify your strengths and any assets or allies you have access to. Help other people see the need and buy into your message. Know your campus and identify a point of entry that can give you a win." Those interested in learning more about STAR and their important work may do so [here](#).

# The Importance and Power of Including Student Voices in Campus-Based Mental Health Programming



MacKenzie Kay  
She/They

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## Sophia's Thoughts

It is always important to include numerous voices at the table when promoting change in an environment. College students are under immense amounts of stress that can lead to mental health struggles. Campuses must consider hearing from the students so they can best support them on their academic and personal journey. When students feel heard and supported by their institutions, they may feel more comfortable sharing their experiences and expressing their concerns. By cultivating an environment where mental health is openly discussed not only among students but also among faculty, institutions of higher education can develop programs and services that directly address the student's mental health needs. In addition, when students have the opportunity to express their concerns, they gain confidence in their ability to vocalize their opinions and come together, therefore increasing campus collaboration and relationships.

## MacKenzie's Thoughts

All health programs benefit greatly from direct community support, and working with college students is no exception! When you involve students in the brainstorming, planning, and implementation of a health program, you not only give it cultural relevance within their population, but you also directly benefit the students themselves. By participating in this process, students gain experience in advocating for themselves and their peers as they learn the proper channels and methods for doing so. These experiences help to cultivate a new generation of health advocates who are ready to create positive change and improve health outcomes for all.

# Ohio College Initiative and Rise and Thrive Summit Content Survey



The Ohio College Initiative (OCI) has recently incorporated the work of the Rise and Thrive (R&T) Campus-Community Partnerships Initiative. This initiative is a collaborative effort with their stakeholders at The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Prevention First!, Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery (HECAOD) and The Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health (OPCSMH) at NEOMED. The goal of this initiative is to support institutions of higher education across Ohio in addressing student wellness needs in collaboration with a community partner. As OCI rolls out this initiative there will be opportunities to learn more about campus community partnerships, funding to campuses, resource sharing, and professional development.

In addition, OCI will be hosting a summit July 29th, 2024, in connection to the HECAOD National Meeting pre-conference day. OCI is asking for your feedback on what content higher ed professionals would like to engage with at this summit. This survey only takes a few minutes and will help shape the OCI/R&T Summit. The survey can be accessed [here](#). Your contribution is greatly appreciated. More information about the summit will be forthcoming soon!

If you would like to learn more about the Ohio College Initiative, you may do so [here](#).

**“Working to Enhance Student Wellness”**

# Current & Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Please see the table below for a list of current and upcoming funding opportunities available to assist institutions of higher education, non-profits, state agencies, and college students.



Funding Opportunity	Closing Date	Award Ceiling
<a href="#">Communities Talk to Prevent Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse</a>	First come, first serve until funding runs out	\$750
<a href="#">Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment</a>	April 12, 2024	\$995,000 per year for up to 5 years
<a href="#">Provider's Clinical Support System – Universities</a>	April 15, 2024	\$300,00 per year for up to 3 years
<a href="#">GLS Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program</a>	May 6th, 2024	\$102,000

# Training Opportunities

Please see below for a list of upcoming in-person and virtual training opportunities.



Event	Description	When & Where
Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health Webinar Series	Be sure to check the OPCSMH Webinars <a href="#">page</a> for newly announced webinars each month during the academic year!	Zoom
<a href="#">OPCSMH Campus Safety &amp; Suicide Prevention Symposium: Cultivating Caring Campuses</a>	This symposium will provide education on evidence-based, culturally relevant resources related to campus suicide prevention and mental health promotion through presentations from industry experts and creating and fostering a safe space for discussion of mental health and campus safety topics, including but not limited to mental health stigma, suicide risk, and substance misuse.	April 11th, 2024 8:00 AM-2:15 PM NEOMED, Rootstown, Ohio
<a href="#">“The S Word” Screening</a>	<p>The OPCSMH will host a free screening and discussion of “The S Word”, a powerful feature documentary that puts a human face on a topic that has long been stigmatized and buried with the lives it has claimed. The discussion will be moderated by Lisa Klein, Director of “The S Word”.</p> <p>The screening and discussion of “The S Word” is open to students, staff, and faculty from all universities, as well as community organizations.</p>	April 11th, 2024 2:15PM-3:45PM NEOMED, Rootstown, Ohio
<a href="#">Columbia Protocol Training</a>	The Columbia Protocol, also known as the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), supports suicide risk assessment through a series of simple, plain-language questions that anyone can ask. The answers help users identify whether someone is at risk for suicide, assess the severity and immediacy of that risk, and gauge the level of support that the person needs. This training opportunity is free.	April 25th, 2024 12:00 PM–1:30 PM Virtual

Event	Description	When & Where
<a href="#">Assessing &amp; Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR)</a>	This one-day workshop is designed to train outpatient treatment providers on how to recognize and assess suicide risk, plan for client safety, and manage the ongoing care of at-risk patients/clients.	May 15th, 2024 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Kent State University – Ashtabula Campus
<a href="#">Ohio College Counseling Association (OCCA) Virtual Conference</a>	The OCCA Spring Conference brings together Counselors from across Ohio to teach, learn, and collaborate on a variety of topics. This year's conference offers two pre-cons and 30 workshops covering ethics, supervision, and general credits.	May 13th, 2024 Virtual
<a href="#">The Higher Education Center's National Meeting</a>	The Higher Education Center's National Meeting is an opportunity for professionals working to address collegiate substance misuse across the continuum to come together and learn from subject matter experts and their peers. This year's theme is "Utilizing a Student-Centered Approach Across the Continuum". Early bird registration ends May 15th, 2024.	July 30th-August 1st, 2024 Columbus, Ohio Virtual Options

Does your organization have a training or funding opportunity occurring between July 2024 and September 2024? Contact us at [opcsmh@neomed.edu](mailto:opcsmh@neomed.edu) so we can share it in the next quarterly OPCSMH Newsletter!

Be sure to [sign up](#) for the Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health listserv to stay up to date on new training opportunities, events, and funding opportunities!

Find previous editions of *The Campus Connection* [here!](#)

