



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

# *The Campus Connection*

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

December 2024

5th Edition



Season's Greetings from the OPCSMH!



Favorite holiday tradition or activity?

Jessica - Spending time with family and friends, as well as  
baking holiday treats

Annaleise - Baking cookies

Madison - Driving through Storybook Lane with family

Chris - Spending time with family

## Campus-Community Spotlight: Utilizing Technology to Support Students



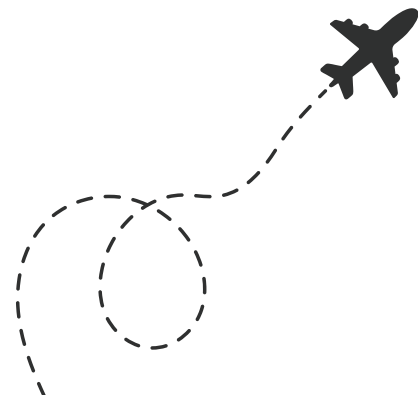
OPCSMH staff recently had the opportunity to sit down and chat with Dr. Kenneth Browner, PsyD, Psychiatrist, Lakeland Community College. During that chat, we discussed the Reach Out mobile application, which is utilized by many Ohio institutions of education after being developed in 2016 by Lakeland Community College. Dr. Browner explained that the development process was very time intensive and “a labor of love”. The app was Lakeland Community College’s response to the new criteria provided by [House Bill 28](#), stating that public universities needed to provide more suicide prevention resources to their students. The Reach Out app provides quick access to

guidance for supporting a friend in need, suicide prevention, or coping with mental health challenges. It also supplies information about resources and services offered on the campus and in the community, including crisis hotline numbers. The Reach Out app is designed for students, parents, friends of students, faculty and staff of the campus-community. The Reach Out app better prepares people to help a friend, loved one or themselves. In Fall 2024, a new version was made available, which includes a helpful feature inspired by the [Seize the Awkward](#) campaign, in which users can send a suggested text message to a friend or loved one to help get the conversation started.

Any school, even outside of Ohio, that may be interested in bringing Reach Out to their campus should contact Dr. Browner via email at [KBrowner@lakelandcc.edu](mailto:KBrowner@lakelandcc.edu). The app is free to download on the Apple or Google stores, and everyone is encouraged to test it out!

## OPCSMH to Present at NASPA Strategies in Boston

The OPCSMH has been selected to host a round table discussion at the upcoming NASPA Strategies Conference in Boston, Massachusetts this coming January! The OPCSMH staff are beyond excited for this opportunity and are hard at work preparing!



# Job Posting: Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence – Dissemination Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence is now accepting online applications to fill their Dissemination Coordinator position! The full position description and application is here:

<https://neomed.peopleadmin.com/postings/5056>

The Dissemination Coordinator is a crucial role within the CJ CCoE. This position supports the staff and consultants of the CJ CCoE in all their areas of work. The position encompasses administrative support, event coordination & logistical planning, partner relationships, and information management/dissemination. Please make sure to read both the Position

Summary Information and the Department Specific Information sections on the job description posting to gain an understanding of the full scope of the position. Applications must be done through the online system. We hope that you will share this exciting opportunity with your networks and colleagues.

Please contact Dr. Em Ribnik at [eribnik@neomed.edu](mailto:eribnik@neomed.edu) directly with any questions about this position or the search process.



## Combating Loneliness This Holiday Season

The holiday season can be difficult for many members of the campus-community. We have listed a few resources below that may be helpful in an effort to support students, staff, and faculty.

10 ways to Combat Student Loneliness: A Guide for Higher Education Professionals

<https://heprofessional.co.uk/edition/10-ways-to-combat-student-loneliness-a-guide-for-higher-education-professionals>

Feeling Lonely in College? Here's Why & What to Do

<https://www.talkspace.com/blog/loneliness-in-college/>

CDC Health Effects of Social Isolation and Loneliness

<https://www.cdc.gov/social-connectedness/risk-factors/index.html>

The New Plague on Campus: Loneliness

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/physical-mental-health/2023/11/08/new-epidemic-gripping-college-campuses-loneliness>

Silent Sufferers: Combating Loneliness in College Students Requires Campus-wide Collaboration

<https://timelycare.com/blog/silent-sufferers-combating-loneliness-in-college-students-requires-campus-wide-collaboration/>

Recipes for Connection

<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/recipes/index.html>



# Call for Presentations



The theme for this year's conference is The Evolving Landscape of Campus Behavioral Health! If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a presentation, please use the link below. The deadline for presentation proposals is February 1st, 2025.

- Creating a culture of care and a comprehensive approach to mental health, substance misuse, and suicide prevention requires investment from the entire campus-community.
- Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage with industry experts and gain valuable insight to support your campus-community.
- Depart with the skills, knowledge, and resources to navigate the evolving landscape of campus behavioral health, no matter your role on campus.
- Registration details forthcoming so stay tuned!

[https://neomed.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bpytfDIITGI6cku](https://neomed.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bpytfDIITGI6cku)

Please contact [opcsmh@neomed.edu](mailto:opcsmh@neomed.edu) with any questions you may have!



## ***Call for Presentations***

**Ohio Program for Campus  
Safety and Mental Health  
7th Biennial Conference**

***The Evolving Landscape of  
Campus Behavioral Health***

**Thursday, May 15, 2025  
Dublin, Ohio**

Depart with the skills,  
knowledge, and resources to  
navigate the evolving  
landscape of campus  
behavioral health, *no matter  
your role on campus.*

**Submit your proposal today!**



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# Combating Student Loneliness and Isolation at NEOMED

The Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health (OPCSMH) recognizes the importance of combating student isolation and loneliness, particularly during the holiday season. In November, the OPCSMH launched a social media campaign titled “Connect. Communicate. Care.” to promote awareness of the importance of social belonging and connectedness for students, staff, and faculty. We are delighted to continue spreading awareness about student isolation and loneliness in the December 2024 edition of The Campus Connection.

[HE Professionals identified ten ways higher education institutions](#) (HEI) can work to combat student loneliness. HEIs are encouraged to combat student loneliness in the following ways;

1. Facilitate Connections
2. Foster Inclusive Spaces
3. Provide Mental Health Resources
4. Leverage Technology
5. Address Specific Needs
6. Partner with External Organizations
7. Conduct Research and Evaluation
8. Promote Open Communication
9. Invest in Staff Training
10. Build a Culture of Inclusion

The OPCSMH interviewed CV Garcia, Assistant Director of Inclusion and Engagement, to learn some of the ways the Office of Academic Affairs and Students Services is working to combat student loneliness and isolation at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Below, you will learn more about how the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services at NEOMED works to facilitate connections, foster inclusive spaces, provide mental health resources, address specific needs, and partner with external organizations.

Read more [here](#).



# 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="#">Capacity for Prevention Stipend</a>	1/7/2025	\$5,000
<a href="#">The Road to Zero Community Traffic Safety Grants</a>	1/17/2025	\$200,000
<a href="#">Lethal Means Safety Suicide Prevention Research in Healthcare and Community Settings (R34 Clinical Trial Required)</a>	1/24/2025	\$450,000
<a href="#">Pilot Research Opportunities in Crisis Response Services for Suicide Prevention (R34 Clinical Trial Optional)</a>	6/3/2025	\$450,000
<a href="#">Minority Fellowship Program for Master's Students (Social Work students only)</a>	N/A	Unspecified

# 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 announce webinars each month during the academic year!	Zoom
<a href="#">NASPA Strategies Conferences</a>	The NASPA Strategies Conferences provide student affairs practitioners with the knowledge and skills to effectively address collegiate alcohol and drug misuse prevention, mental health, sexual violence prevention and response, peer education and well-being through a variety of comprehensive and integrative approaches.	1/16-1/18 Boston, MA
<a href="#">What to Ask: Assessment of Eating Disorders from Intake to Referral</a>	This training will focus on the nuances of eating disorder assessment from the perspective of mental/behavioral health providers.	1/24/25 Virtual
<a href="#">Alcohol Use of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students</a>	Alcohol misuse on college campuses has been shown to be the cause of physical, socio-emotional, and academic harm. Alcohol is also an issue for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing (DDBHH) students. Similar to hearing students, DDBHH students may experience the “college effect” of increased alcohol use upon arrival. In addition, there are other factors unique to being DDBHH that may impact alcohol use. This presentation will highlight data found from a qualitative case study which explored staff and students’ perceptions and experiences of alcohol use.	1/30/25 Virtual
<a href="#">Partnering for Success: Strategic Approaches to Community Collaboration</a>	This workshop empowers prevention professionals with the skills to create and sustain effective community partnerships. Participants will learn to identify key community sectors for collaboration, discuss the benefits and challenges of developing partnerships, and implement strategies for building strong, strategic alliances.	2/13/25 Virtual



Event	Description	When & Where
<a href="#">Connecting the Dots: Working with Fraternities and Sororities</a>	<p>For better or worse, there is nothing like the sorority &amp; fraternity experience or working with fraternities and sororities on the campuses in which they reside. Complex, and often complicated organizations, lead to complex and complicated relationships. The question this session aims to explore is why. Why can working with fraternities &amp; sororities and the professionals and volunteers who work with them be so complicated? Come “connect the dots” and explore barriers and complexities getting in the way of successful working relationships.</p>	<p>2/26/25 Virtual</p>
<a href="#">OPCSMH 7th Biennial Conference: The Evolving Landscape of Campus Behavioral Health</a>	<p>Save the date! Attendees of the conference will learn to identify how colleges and universities can collaborate with the campus-community to leverage the promotion of student safety &amp; well-being, mental health awareness and campus suicide prevention efforts, encourage students, faculty, staff and administration to reconsider practices and strategies to improve access to behavioral health services on campus, and learn new best practices, resources, and help-seeking options that target suicide prevention for all campus-community student populations.</p>	<p>5/15/25 Dublin, OH</p>

Does your organization have a training or funding opportunity occurring between March 2025 and May 2025? 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!

