

Presenter Bios

Cynthia J. Arredondo is the Director of Training Resources at the Texas School Safety Center. Cynthia is a nationally recognized presenter on current drug trends and school safety issues. She has worked in the field of substance abuse for more than ten years. She has been certified by the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland as a trainer of trainers in "Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools". Among her certifications, is a Texas Youth Tobacco Awareness Program Instructor, and completion of the TCLEOSE Basic Instructor Certification Course. Cynthia received her Bachelor of Social Work from Texas State University-San Marcos.

Curtis Clay is the Director of Programs for the Texas School Safety Center. He has coordinated and provided workshops and trainings on youth violence, bully prevention, emergency operations planning, and school safety throughout the state. Before joining the Texas School Safety Center in 1999, he worked 3 years for the Hays Caldwell Women's Center as the Sexual Assault Prevention Educator and Coordinator. During that time, Curtis conducted workshops for more than 15,000 public school students on issues such as peer sexual harassment, dating violence, date rape, and acquaintance rape. His work prior to that includes more than 10 years in public and private school settings, both as a teacher and crisis counselor. Curtis is a nationally recognized speaker and has also conducted workshops on sexual assault prevention and dating violence with several athletic programs on the collegiate level. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications from Sul Ross State University.

Jose Contreras is a School Safety Specialist with the Texas School Safety Center. He provides training for and has conducted School Safety and Security Audits. He has received certification in the following: National Incident Management System, Incident Command Systems, Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents, and WMD Technical Emergency Response Training. Before joining the Texas School Safety Center he served 30 years in the United States Navy retiring as a Master Chief Petty Officer. The last six years of his Navy career he was a Master Training Specialist for the U. S. Navy, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Chapman University, Orange California.

Rebekah S. Lamm is the Education Information Technology Safety Specialist at Texas School Safety Center. She specializes in researching the current trends in Internet safety issues such as cyberbullying, online solicitations, safety issues that affect schools, identity theft, and larger policy issues. She is i-SAFE certified and familiar with many existing safety curricula and programs including Netsmartz, i-Safe, and Cybersmart. Rebekah has a Master's degree from Baylor University and taught at the college level before joining Texas School Safety Center.

Dwight Stewart is a Training Supervisor with the Texas School Safety Center and former Detention Superintendent for the San Patricio County Juvenile Detention Center. Mr. Stewart is a certified Incident Command System Trainer for the Texas Division of Emergency Management and has conducted numerous school safety site assessments and specialized trainings. He has worked over fifteen years in the field of Criminal Justice and has an extensive background in youth violence prevention and school safety planning. He is a nationally certified trainer in the area of Gang Violence (National Gang Crime Research Center). Mr. Stewart received his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from University of Texas at San Antonio.

Rick Torres is a Program Specialist with the Texas School Safety Center. He has eighteen years of experience in the field, with eight years experience in social services. Rick is a former probation officer for Caldwell County, juvenile boot camp instructor, and has worked for the Texas Youth Commission. He also served in the US Army and is currently in the Army Reserves. His most recent experience was as a Prevention Specialist at New Braunfels Middle School. Rick presents on bully prevention, gang awareness, gender respect and drug and alcohol prevention. He also works with his community by helping kids stay off the streets and participate in sports. Rick received his B.S. in Exercise and Sports Science from Texas State University-San Marcos (formerly Southwest Texas State University).

Maggie Watson is a Program Specialist with the Texas School Safety Center. Maggie, both a dedicated speaker and avid advocate for cultural change regarding sexual assault, has traveled throughout Texas and beyond, speaking to university students, law enforcement, and others about sexual assault. Currently, Maggie works to educate schools on one of the most critical areas of school safety – dating violence – including TEC 37.0831 (formerly House Bill 121). Maggie has been involved with the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, as a spokesperson for the "Speak Up, Speak Out" campaign. She derives her motivation and passion for the subject of sexual assault from her personal story and a desire to create an environment where violence and abuse are not tolerated.

2-Day School Safety Institute



The Texas School Safety Center in partnership with Region One Education Service Center will be hosting a 2-day school safety institute targeting the numerous issues and barriers that ensure a safe and drug-free environment for students and staff. This is an exceptional opportunity for educators, administrators, and law enforcement officials to receive current and up to date information such as Gang Awareness, Internet Safety, School Violence, Best Practices for School Safety, Dating Violence Prevention and Bullying Prevention.

Where:

Region One Education Service Center
1900 W. Schunior
Edinburg, Texas 78541

When:

January 27 - 28, 2010

Fee:

\$0 - No Fee for SDFSC Co-op
\$40 - Non SDSFC Co-op

ESC Contact:

Contact: Clara Contreras
Email: ccontreras@esc1.net
Phone: 956.984.6125

Register online: www.esc1.net/staffdevelopment
Title: School Safety Institute
Workshop Registration - **Workshop # 21967**

*Participants will be eligible to receive up to
12 TCLEOSE, CPE, LPC Credits.*

[Seating is limited....so register today.]

Texas School

Safety Center
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



Wednesday, January 27, 2010

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 – 8:30 | Registration - Check-in |
| 8:30 – 8:35 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 8:35 – 9:45 | School Violence: What's Really Going On? |
| 9:45 – 10:00 | Break |
| 10:00 – 11:30 | Internet Safety: Myths, Realities and Challenges |
| 11:30 – 1:00 | Lunch on your own |
| 1:00 – 2:30 | Dating Violence Prevention: Compliance and Compassion |
| 2:30 – 2:45 | Break |
| 2:45 – 4:15 | Drug Trends in America: Raves, Ecstasy, and Club Drugs |

Thursday, January 28, 2010

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|---------------|--|
| 8:30 – 10:00 | Bully Ed 101 |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Break |
| 10:15 – 11:30 | Best Practices for School Safety |
| 11:30 – 1:00 | Lunch on your own |
| 1:00 – 2:30 | Gangs in Our Community: There is a Crack in Our Foundation |
| 2:30 – 2:45 | Break |
| 2:45 – 4:00 | Gangs in Our Community (Continuation) |
| 4:00 – 4:15 | Evaluations/Adjourn |

School Violence: What's Really Going On? (Curtis Clay)

This presentation will take an in-depth look at the complex issues facing today's youth. Participants will examine and compare the influences of youth today with those of the past. This presentation will look at the way students handle conflict, address some of the bullying issues and many contributing factors to school and youth violence. This engaging and motivational presentation will provide participants with practical tools that can be utilized immediately to build better relationships and connect with the youth of today.

Internet Safety: Myths, Realities and Challenges (Rebekah Lamm)

The world of the Internet can be scary and tough to navigate, especially as a teacher, parent, administrator or any "digital immigrant." The generation gap between adults and "digital natives" seems to grow larger with every new technology. Through this presentation you will learn the latest statistics, trends and safety tips concerning many Internet safety issues including cyberbullying, online solicitations, privacy, and identity theft. Participants will discuss ways to overcome this gap in hopes of keeping children safe while on the Internet, and come away with a wide variety of knowledge including the way the Internet is changing and shaping our children.

Dating Violence: Compliance and Compassion (Maggie Watson)

Dating violence is one of the most crucial areas of school safety. This interactive workshop will supply current statistical information on this problem, as well as an overview of specific incidents of dating violence that have occurred in Texas. Best practices in prevention and response techniques will be reviewed. In addition, this presentation will include information regarding TEC §37.0831, which mandates that school districts have a dating violence policy.

Drug Trends in America: Raves, Ecstasy, and Club Drugs (Cynthia Arredondo)

Today's youth are immersed in a culture of new drug trends. This training will provide participants with information about the effects of ecstasy, marijuana, methamphetamine, ketamine, and GHB. Individuals will also gain insightful information on raves which are usually promoted as alcohol-free parties and dances. Timely information on street terminology will be presented. Furthermore, visuals will be included to demonstrate how youth smuggle drugs and alcohol into schools and homes.

Bully Ed 101 (Rick Torres)

This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of the dynamics of school bullies and their victims. Across the nation, children are becoming victims of these horrific acts. Participants will receive information about social cruelty and the measures that students are taking to fit in school and society. Most people wouldn't consider bullying a crime -- but it could be creating criminals right before our very eyes.

Best Practices in School Safety (Jose Contreras)

This workshop is designed to identify best practices currently utilized to make schools safer and more secure. Training will define best practices and identify possible solutions to school safety and security challenges, including preparedness drills, access control, violence reduction, communication systems and staff training.

Gangs in the Community: There is a Crack in Our Foundation (Dwight Stewart)

Gangs are widespread and adversely affect the quality of life within our communities with violence, drugs, and associated criminal activity. This presentation will focus on warning signs, risk factors, graffiti, street language, tattoos, and new trends of gang involvement. In particular, participants will learn the profiles of several different gangs including, MS13, Tango Blasters, Latin Kings, Surenos 13 and Norteno 14.