Mission
The mission of the Auburn University Anti-Bullying Summit is to facilitate action-oriented conversations via a premiere conference designed to share information, current thinking, and research about a serious problem facing our schools and communities—bullying. The conference is designed to create on-going local, state, and national coalitions for Pre K-12 educators, higher education faculty and administrators, student leaders, mental health practitioners, researchers, community leaders, policymakers, and other professionals who are engaged in on-going work to address bullying and cyber-bullying in learning environments.

Highlights of the 2014 Program
- Attended by 209 participants and 6 exhibitors; attendees came from 10 states.
- 33 sessions explored a broad range of topics: legal issues related to bullying, effective school intervention programs, cyber-safety, building empathy through the arts, research-based strategies, and empowering the bystander.
- 15% of attendees indicated they have previously attended the Auburn University Anti-Bullying Summit program.
- 70% of those who have previously attended the Auburn University Anti-Bullying Summit indicated that the program was the same or better than in previous years.
- 32% of the attendees indicated they have attended other (non-Auburn) anti-bullying workshops or conferences.
- 90% of the attendees who have attended other (non-Auburn) anti-bullying workshops or conferences indicated that the Auburn University Anti-Bullying Summit was the better than other programs they have attended.
- 64% of the attendees rated the Summit schedule above average or excellent.
- 65% of attendees indicated the Anti-Bullying Summit provided ample opportunities to network with others.
Selected Participant Comments

- I am very fortunate to have been able to participate in the Anti-Bullying Summit. I think every school district should be represented in this event.
- The conference was very informative. Great job!
- Excellent conference. I appreciate that it was very intervention focused. I left with more tools and an increased level of motivation.
- Great conference!
- I greatly enjoyed the conversation and information.
- An awesome and informational summit.
- This was an excellent experience!
- Amazing—this was so beneficial. I can’t wait to share it with our staff at school.
- I applaud the AU staff for making this experience beneficial and enjoyable.

Hero Award Recipients

Being an “upstander” rather than a “bystander” in bullying situations requires courage and risk, and individuals or groups who take the initiative to be “upstanders” become an impetus for change in schools and communities. The Auburn University Anti-Bullying Summit recognizes individuals/groups who are actively standing up to bullying with Hero Awards. The 2013 Hero Award winners are:

- Ms. Felicia Simpson, School-Based Leader (Gadsden City Schools)
  After attending a national conference in Washington, DC hosted by Safe and Drug Free Schools, and learning about the destructive impact of bullying in schools, Ms. Felicia Simpson determined to develop anti-bullying initiatives in her Gadsden, Alabama community. Bullying statistics indicate that about 1 out of every 7 students in grades K-12 is either a bully or a bullying victim. Ms. Simpson developed a multi-faceted plan, established a committee, scheduled trainings, and found sponsors for a community-wide anti-bullying rally, held at Gadsden’s Convention Hall and attended by over 1,300 people in 2011.

- Mr. Dequadray White, Student Leader (Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta)
  During 2012, Dequadray White noticed the harsh and unfair treatment that other youth were enduring as a result of bullying by their peers, and he remembered his own humiliating experiences of being bullied. To bring attention to this issue, Dequadray wrote, cast, and directed an original production entitled No Nonsense featuring a cast of approximately 20 young actors performed at the Jesse Draper Boys & Girls Club in College Park, Georgia. The play examines bullying from the perspectives of several typical high school cliques: “jocks,” “nerds” and “the plastics” (vanity-driven popular girls). The play examines bullying from the perspectives of several typical high school cliques who bully a teen-aged girl; ultimately, the students rally for change after seeing their classmate endure sustained mistreatment.

- Dr. Joseph Jones, University-Based Leader (Mercer University)
  Dr. Joseph Jones, currently a faculty member in the Teacher Education program at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, has devoted his academic career to studying and trying to eradicate bullying in schools. His doctoral work focused on homophobia and bullying, leading to numerous articles and presentations throughout the country on this topic. While teaching at a university in Virginia, Dr. Jones developed a county-wide initiative, in conjunction with the sheriff’s office, for implementation in the local k-12 school district to help combat bullying. “Communities Against Bullying,” or CAB, has been installed in the school district along with the program mascot, Cabbie the Coyote, as an education tool against bullying and has become a model for adoption by other school systems.

- Mr. Gerald Griggs, Community Leader (DeKalb County, GA)
  Attorney Gerald Griggs has worked for many years providing anti-bullying advocacy and education throughout the United States, from his base in Decatur, Georgia. In 2011, he was a featured speaker at the second annual National Federal Partners in Bullying Summit in Washington D.C. In 2009, following a high profile case in which a bullied student committed suicide, Mr. Griggs began to lobby the Georgia General Assembly to strengthen Georgia’s Bullying law. With support from state senator Mike Jacobs and other legislative advocates, Georgia’s Anti-bullying law was changed in 2011 to include all primary grades, age appropriate sanctions, and transfer of students after a third bullying incident. This made Georgia’s Anti-Bullying law one of the toughest in the nation at that point.