## Workshop Sessions (100 minutes)

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<tr>
<th>Title/Presenter</th>
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<td><strong>How to Make Your School “No Place for Hate”</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Presenter: Erin Beacham</td>
<td><em>No Place for Hate</em> has directly reached over 3.5 million people and is currently active in more than 1,500 schools and communities nationwide. This Anti-Defamation League presentation will offer an interactive workshop to address bullying and prejudice in our schools. <em>No Place for Hate</em> is a year-long campaign that provides the resources, tools, and language to transform the culture and climate of your schools.</td>
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<td><strong>Where Did Everybody Go? Finding the Right Audience for Your Message</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Presenter: Bryetta Callaway</td>
<td>Often prevention professionals assume that they are knowledgeable about what their target demographic wants to see and hear. However, much data supports the development of audience-oriented awareness and social marketing strategies. These strategies encourage your target audience, specifically youth, to be educated to develop, write, design, and create the content they want to see. This workshop will aid bullying prevention initiative leaders in equipping their audience to co-create awareness messaging and content leading to audiences that are ultimately empowered and well-versed to adopt healthy behaviors.</td>
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<td><strong>The Collaborative Classroom: Equipping Students with Tools to Discourage Bullying</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Presenters: Betsy Fox and Susan Young</td>
<td>The Collaborative Classroom is an intentional environment in which social-emotional learning (SEL) is taught alongside academic skills. Student collaboration goes beyond conventional cooperation and compliance and students become invested, caring members of a learning community. The practices of the Collaborative Classroom prevent bullying and support students’</td>
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Addressing Bullying in Your Schools: Things You Should Know  
Presenter: Quentin Fretwell, Anti-Bullying Hero Award Recipient  
This session will discuss student bullying in schools and strategies on how to address this important issue in a comprehensive approach. Emphasis will be placed on proactive measures to prevent bullying and best practices on how to handle incidents that occur. The related topics of harassment and hazing will also be discussed. Additionally, this session will present recent information and guidelines that have been issued by the various agencies and preliminary research on perceptions of bullying in schools.

Organizing for LGBTQ – Inclusive Anti-Harassment Policies in Local School Districts  
Presenter: Lacy Kennedy  
This workshop will begin with a comparison of current anti-harassment policies in several school districts with a model policy which is inclusive of the needs of LGBTQ students. Participants will develop strategies for effecting change on this issue within their local school districts. Messaging and organizing students, parents, and faculty will be discussed as well as tactics for engaging school board members.

Technological Torture: The Role of Professional Youth Developers in the Cyber Era  
Presenters: Virginia Lawley, Shaurese Foster, Kristian Mitchell, and Dequadray White with Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta  
This session is presented by teens regarding the types of cyber-bullying prevalent in today’s world. Specific attention is given to the reactions and feelings of young people involved with this type of bullying. There are hands-on activities both to give thoughts and actions to those adults working with young people as well as to create activities which are helpful and attractive to youth. The teens facilitating this session are part of a multi-year initiative against bullying.

Bullying of Students with Disabilities  
Presenter: Jody Manning  
Studies have found that children with disabilities are two to three times more likely to be bullied than their non-disabled peers. This session is presented by PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center, which has emphasis on advocacy for families of children with disabilities. Topics include laws and policies designed to protect students with disabilities, helpful facts to know, methods to build self-advocacy, and resources designed by PACER to address bullying of students with disabilities.
Bullying Prevention in Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)
Presenter: Virginia O’Connell

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework or approach comprised of prevention and intervention practices for improving school climate and providing the behavioral supports needed to achieve academic and social success for all students. Focused on preventing the development and occurrence of maladaptive behavior, including bullying, PBIS helps school teams organize evidence-based practices and implement those practices with fidelity to maximize outcomes for all students. This session will provide an overview of school-wide PBIS and how the PBIS framework assists schools in improving the effectiveness of practices designed to prevent school violence and bullying behavior. PBIS schools create cultures that prevent the development and occurrences of bullying behavior and use a team-based and data-driven problem-solving process to address issues when they arise. Examples of effective implementation and interventions from Georgia schools will be provided.

Bully-proofing Your School: You Can Make it Happen
Presenter: Bill Parsons

Participants will receive practical, research-based bully-proofing strategies that can be used in a classroom as well as school-wide implementation. Humor, high energy, and proven techniques will be shared for educators at every level; you can make it happen!

Preventing School Bullying: What School Leaders, Teachers, Counselors, Parents, and Students Can Do
Presenter: Franklin Schargel

Students are exposed to bullying every day in their homes, schools, and communities. It causes them significant physical, mental, and emotional harm with long-term effects that can last well into adulthood. Children’s exposure to bullying is pervasive and affects all ages. This session will address ways in which school leaders, teachers, counselors, parents and students can prevent school bullying.

4-H Bully Busters – Teens Leading and Caring (TLC)
Presenters: Cheryl Varnadoe, Anna Holcombe, and Oakley Perry

Bullying is an issue that concerns young people as well as the adults in their lives. Bullying impacts not only those who are bullied and those who do the bullying, but also bystanders who witness these behaviors. The “4-H Bully Busters” workshop will emphasize prevention, intervention, support, and control. Attendees will experience hands-on activities that can be replicated in schools, clubs,
and communities. Resources that can be used to address bullying and cyber-bullying will also be shared. Attendees will acquire ideas and support to address bullying in their communities in their own way, from having the courage to speak up when they see bullying taking place to starting their own Bully Buster support group.

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<th>Concurrent Sessions (50 minutes)</th>
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| **Teacher Bullying**                              | **Presenter:** Sandy Armstrong and Sheniqua Griffin  
Although the data shows that bullying is an escalating problem, there is little discussion on the complex issue of teachers who bully students. The reason for the lack of focus on this particular problem is the fact that it is difficult to identify, address, and rectify. In this session we will address this issue and provide insight as to how to deal with this challenge and provide tools to put a stop to it. |
| **Remove Bullying Incidents and Safety Threats with Online Student Reporting** | **Presenter:** Joe Bruzzese  
Students want to feel safe in school. Anonymous online reporting gives students a safe way to report bulling and other incidents that threaten their safety. Learn how an evidence-based, tiered approach to bullying prevention can empower students as active participants in creating positive school culture. |
| **What Can Instructional Leaders Do to Prevent Cyberbullying?** | **Presenters:** Yvette Bynum  
Blogging, social networks, e-mails, instant messaging, and web forums are different ways that today’s technologically savvy culture communicate with others all across the world. Although these have beneficial uses, some have used these popular online forms of communications to harm others, thus termed “cyberbullying.” The purpose of this session is to define cyberbullying within the context of bullying, describe its characteristics, and discuss current research and tips on what administrators in K-12 settings can do to prevent cyberbullying. |
| **Be SAFE : Lessons Learned from a State-wide Bullying Prevention Initiative** | **Presenters:** Adrienne Duke, Leigh Akins, Kate McHugh, and Debra Ward  
The ALL in Project seeks to reduce bullying incidence rates in youth across the state of Alabama; it also helps schools (teachers/staff/administrators) and... |
parents/guardians understand bullying beyond victims and bullies, as a social problem that requires adult intervention. The Be SAFE curriculum is used as our youth component to facilitate positive peer relationships and advocacy to reduce bullying behaviors. This presentation will share our findings from the evaluation of the Be SAFE curriculum as well as share lessons from the field concerning implementation.

**Effective Bullying Prevention – It Takes a Village**  
*Presenter: Jeff Ervine*

It takes an entire school community, from the parents, students, teachers, administrators and other faculty, to build a positive school environment that supports bullying prevention. It’s more than an awareness day, an anti-bullying policy or a reporting app. Additionally, as school districts navigate how to deal with bullying, harassment and the sensitive content on and offline, there are a number of legal and compliance issues that must be addressed. This session will look at restorative resolution strategies and techniques that facilitate teachable moments to deter future negative behavior. It will also look at the impact that social emotional curricula has on school climate.

**Bullying and Zero Tolerance Policies: The School to Prison Pipeline**  
*Presenter: Kelli M. Jette*

This session examines the misuse of zero-tolerance policies and the skewing of the definition of bullying. There are claims that racist disparities in the implementation of zero tolerance policies, including school suspensions and expulsions, contribute to a “pushout” mechanism that exacerbates corresponding racial disparities in our nation’s patterns of incarceration, constituting a “school to prison pipeline.”

**Anti-Bullying Strategies Through Promotion of Positive School Culture**  
*Presenters: Christi Jones and Carrie D. Hemmings*

Positive school culture has been proven to decrease bullying and promote student success at all grade levels. A literature review examining strategies that promote positive school cultures will be presented. In addition, examples from schools that have successfully implemented these strategies and improved school culture will be discussed. These strategies were developed through the use of faculty and student leadership and incentive programs.

**The Power of Words: Using Literature as a Mechanism to Combat Bullying**  
*Presenters: Joseph R. Jones, Adam Crownover, and*

This presentation discusses how literature at each grade level can be used to address bullying within schools. Participants will engage in hands-on
Elizabeth Williams curricular activities to contemplate how literacy practices can create safe classrooms for all students.

**Key’s ABCs to Leadership**  
*Presenter: Ole Pete Key*

Being a good leader is more than being the boss. It’s about teamwork, vision, and a strong sense of quality and integrity in everything you do. In his book *Key’s ABCs to Leadership*, the author shares the nuts and bolts of leading people, programs, and projects. It is a thought-provoking, educational, engaging, and empowering workshop on Leadership. The 26 principles to live a better life personally and professionally are laid out in the book and demonstrated with practical and profound examples.

**“No Bullying Zone” : The Intersection of Bullying and Behavioral Health**  
*Presenters: Mary Mason, Colleen Duewel, Jeff Luce, and Jeffrey Grant, Representing Centene, The Corporate Anti-Bullying Hero Award Recipient*

Every seven minutes a child is bullied. Despite these numbers, few adults are informed or intervene to stop bullying. As a result, children suffer from negative side effects, such as significant drops in grades, increased anxiety and poor social life. The social issue of bullying impacts both physical and behavioral health, which has long-term effects on children and their communities. Centene Corporation and its subsidiary, Cenpatico, teamed up with Children’s National Health System and Howard University to put a stop to bullying through education and empowerment. The Anti-bullying Campaign, “No Bullying Zone,” educates students, teachers and parents across the country on how to prevent, identify and appropriately intervene with bullying in school-aged children.

**Breaking the “Code of Silence”: Practical Steps for Reducing Stigma by Meeting Students Where They Live**  
*Presenters: Carter Myers and Tray Malloy*

Challenges such as the “code of silence” and stigma all too often prevent those who need help from reaching out. Be it personal or school related issues, those who know the most about what happens consistently fail to report. By examining 9 years of data we will demonstrate that meeting students where they “talk” to one another improves face-to-face communication with trusted adults in the school while creating teachable moments about appropriate use of technology.
**ReThink: An Innovative Software Tool for Cyberbullying Intervention**
*Presenter: Trisha Prabhu, Anti-Bullying Hero Award Recipient*

In 2013, student Trisha Prabhu was shocked to learn that a young girl from Florida had committed suicide due to repeated cyberbullying. Trisha’s efforts to find a long-term solution to cyberbullying led her to create a technology product, ReThink, an innovative, patented software product that stops cyber bullying before the damage is done. When someone tries to post an offensive message on social media, ReThink gives the writer a second chance to reconsider his or her decision. Research using ReThink has shown that, given this opportunity, the overall willingness of the average adolescent to post an offensive message us reduced to 4%.

**We’re All Different: Teaching Inclusion to Prevent Bullying**
*Presenter: Kelsey Tainsh*

Kelsey helps you gain insight into being bullied and describes how she overcame it, emphasizing how we grow as a result of the obstacles we face. She shares her powerful story of overcoming life threatening medical obstacles that paralyzed her right side, which made her different, bullied and excluded. Her powerful message will help you to teach students accept and celebrate the differences in themselves and others.

**Passing Legislation and Engaging Stakeholders**
*Presenter: Keisha Waites*

Representative Waites is the author and sponsor of HB 40 and co-sponsor of HB 131. She will facilitate a comprehensive discussion on the experiences, challenges, and stratagem that students, parents, advocates and stakeholders will encounter in their efforts to create anti-bullying legislation. Participants will receive instruction in developing and implementing effective plans of action, steps to organizing stakeholders at the grassroots level, identifying and managing resources, mobilizing support, and understanding the techniques of effective lobbying.

**The Bully as Victim**
*Presenter: Dr. Quanda Watson-Stevenson*

This workshop will discuss and identify reasons why bullies are also considered victims. The presenter will also provide parents, social agents, and educators with tools to assess and identify bullies as victims and thereby develop programs to reduce the existence of bullying.

**Being the Change Agent Needed to Stop Bullying**
*Presenter: Shandreka B. West*

Fill your teaching toolbox with multiple resources to combat bullying, starting with one grade level at a time. This session will show how one teacher incorporated Mix it Up Lunch Programs with
Random Acts of Kindness, Family Meetings, and other classroom management strategies to provide a community environment where scholars feel safe and the focus is on learning.

**Poster Sessions**

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<td><strong>Parents: Doing Our Part</strong> &lt;br&gt;Presenter: Ann Alderson</td>
<td>The presenter will share information that helped her son deal with bullying: B (Boundaries)—establish healthy boundaries and understand the social circle; U (Understanding others)—discern differences but not to judge; L (Love)—target five named areas in which to build confidence; L (Listen actively)—know what people say and what they actually mean; Y (You, Yourself, and You)—help to know gifts, talents, and identify what skills may be needed.</td>
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<td><strong>Raising Awareness of Students’ Electronic Reputation: Preventing Online Bullying and promoting Positive Online Reputations</strong> &lt;br&gt;Presenters: Julia Chibbaro, Susan Boes, and Michael Keim</td>
<td>In today’s public schools, students may encounter bullying through numerous electronic media. This presentation will outline a proposed school counseling program intervention designed to raise awareness of students’ electronic reputation and third-party access to personal information, thereby limiting opportunities for bullying to occur and limiting access by online predators, as well as promoting a positive professional image to potential employers.</td>
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<td><strong>Developing Anti-Bullying Training Opportunities for Educators and Counselors</strong> &lt;br&gt;Presenters: Kimberly Grantham Griffith and Michael Keim</td>
<td>The University of West Georgia co-presenters provided educators and counselors in school districts in west Georgia and northeast Alabama a one-day Anti-Bullying Symposium. In addition to the Symposium, online anti-bullying trainings were developed to provide modules related to a variety of anti-bullying strategies and parent involvement. Anti-bullying training sessions were also conducted in the local school districts by the co-presenters to help individual schools deal with recent issues related to bullying.</td>
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**Speaker Bios**

Ann Alderson is a celebrated wife and mother of two. She attended the University of Alabama and graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice. Before marriage, Ann worked as a paralegal. Today she stays home with her children. She has been a blogger and writer on the topic of parenting. The subject of bullying hits close to home for Ann. Ann personally experienced bullying in grade school and as a mother having to help her son navigate bullying.
**Sandy Armstrong** is the director of the East Alabama Regional In-service Center (EARIC). EARIC is one of the eleven regional in-service centers spread around the state of Alabama. The center is housed at Auburn University and supports 5000 educators in 15 school districts in eight counties. Sandy’s previous experience was working in public school settings in both elementary and secondary settings. She was a classroom teacher, Title I teacher, instructional coach, registrar, and professional development provider.

**Leigh Taylor Akins, Ed.S.,** is a Regional Extension Agent in the area of Family and Child Development for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Environmental Science with a concentration in Child Development from the University of Alabama, a Master of Science Degree in Special Education from the University of West Alabama, an Educational Specialist Degree in Adult Education from Auburn University, and is currently working towards her Ph.D. in Adult Education from Auburn University. Leigh has taught the Be SAFE curriculum in several classrooms across west Alabama.

**Erin Beacham** is the Education Director for the Southeast Region of the Anti-Defamation League. She has an undergraduate degree from Guilford College with a double major in Psychology and African-American Studies as well as a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in Peace and Conflict Studies. Her advocacy work includes various organizations in North Carolina including Triad Health Project and National Conference for Community and Justice.

**Susan R. Boes** is a professor of Professional Counseling at the University of West Georgia. She served as a classroom teacher in Ohio prior to entering the field of Counselor Education. Her research interests include designing effective programs for professional school counselors, diversity issues, and ethical/legal issues in professional counseling.


**Yvette Bynum** is an Assistant Professor of Instructional Leadership in the College of Education at Auburn Montgomery. She is the program coordinator for the Instructional Leadership program; teaches a variety of graduate level Instructional Leadership courses; supervises interns; serves as member-at-large of the Alabama Association of Professors of Educational Leadership; and has over 15 years’ experience as a public school teacher and administrator. She has several publications and presentations on leadership development, mentoring, and cyberbullying.

**Bryetta Calloway** has worked in Marketing and Communications with nonprofits nationally. With more than ten years of experience working in the nonprofit sector, she has conceptualized and implemented numerous marketing strategies and campaigns that seek to increase awareness and knowledge on issues ranging from AIDS and homelessness to youth-centric issues (e.g., bullying, violence, and underage binge drinking).

**Julia Chibbaro, PhD,** is an Associate Professor at the University of West Georgia. She served as a school counselor in the public schools of South Carolina for over a decade. Her research interests include developing intervention and prevention strategies for practicing school counselors relating to cyberbullying and bullying, ethical and legal issues in professionals counseling, as well as the use of creative strategies in school counseling.
Adam Crownover is a high school social studies teacher in North Carolina and a doctoral student at Mercer University. His primary research interest is relational pedagogy: particularly constructing and maintaining positive teacher-student relationships. This inevitably involves identifying what these relationships look like and identifying successful practices of teachers who excel in this relational capacity. Beyond this, he is interested in a teacher education which better-prepares those who are called to teach for this most important aspect of the profession: developing caring relationships with all students.

Colleen Duewel is the national director of the Education, Training and Peer Support Center at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). She oversees NAMI’s signature education programs, including Family-to-Family, Peer-to-Peer, NAMI Basics, Provider Education, In Our Own Voice and Parents and Teachers as Allies, as well as the support programs NAMI Connection and the NAMI Family Support Group. Ms. Duewel’s previous positions at Virginia Hospital Center, Northern Virginia Family Services and the American Heart Association have allowed her to serve as advocate and liaison to address the needs of target populations through coalition building with relevant agencies and partners. Her experience includes web development, e-learning, survey design and analysis, evaluation and ROI calculations. She has a Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina.

Adrienne Duke is an assistant professor in Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University, and is the Adolescent Development Extension Specialist for Alabama’s Cooperative Extension System. Currently, she is leading a state-wide bullying intervention which teaches youth about bullying and ways to move from bystanders to allies. She also does workshops for adults who work with youth in order to help them become conscientious allies and advocates for safe and affirming environments.

Jeffrey Ervine is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Bridg-it. He decided to create a sustainable solution to bullying and cyberbullying after enduring a difficult experience of personally being attacked online. It was during that period that he realized there needed to be a technology-based solution for a problem that is destroying lives and has spread online, making it so much more difficult to avoid or escape. Mr. Ervine is an investment professional with over 25 years of experience in accounting and finance. He is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and has an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Shaurese Foster has been a member of the Boys and Girls club for 7 years and of Keystone for nearly 5 years. She was among the first members of MAD IRL. She enjoys doing poetry and has participated in many poetry-based Boys and Girls Club events. She attends Tri-Cities High School and is a member of the art magnet. Her dream college is SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) where she would like to major in animation and minor in sequential art.

Betsy Fox has been a teacher and learner for the past thirty-five years. After earning degrees in Early Childhood Education and Educational Administration and Supervision, Betsy began her career in the Houston public schools in 1980. In her various roles as teacher, instructional coordinator, principal, and head of school in Houston and in California, Betsy has always strived to create the best possible educational opportunities for children by creating school communities in which all students feel connected and engaged and in which all students are provided opportunities to do their best learning. As a consultant to schools across the U.S., Fox works with teachers and administrators in such areas as school culture and climate, literacy, quality early childhood and elementary school curriculum and program development, best teaching practices, and leadership training.

Quentin Fretwell, Anti-Bullying Hero Award Recipient, is the retired Director of the Department of Safe
Jeffrey F. Grant, Ph.D., serves as the principal of Friendship Public Charter Schools Blow-Pierce Campus. As a practitioner and researcher he has been successful in identifying and implementing strategies that have improved the academic and social skills of the Blow-Pierce students. Dr. Grant has a history of raising academic levels for students who have been labeled at-risk. He has served as the Director of Families and Parents in the Office of Families and Public Engagement. His education philosophy incorporates character education, experiential education and quality partnerships as a means of raising academic achievement. During summers he leads principals from all over the world in their efforts to improve their skill sets at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education Principal’s Center.

Sheniqua Griffin, a native of Dadeville, Alabama, is currently program coordinator and Graduate Teaching Assistant at Auburn University’s Truman Pierce Institute (TPI), a research and outreach unit in the College of Education. She is a Master of Adult Education Candidate, minor in Sports Management. Sheniqua is also a mentor, motivational guru, life success coach and former athlete. Through her experience of working with at-risk youth and educators, she has a profound gift to empower individuals to tap into their limitless potential, unlock their destiny, and help people change their lives through practical action-planning. She loves to read, run, enjoy time with family and friends and ensure that she is constantly investing her time in lifelong learning activities. Education, empowerment and having a positive attitude are her keys to success!

Kimberly Grantham Griffith is an assistant professor in the area of Special Education in the Department of Learning and Teaching, College of Education, at the University of West Georgia. She has been involved in training in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) strategies and utilized this strategy in her school when she worked as a special education teacher in the middle grades. She currently works with educators and pre-service teachers to provide anti-bullying strategy training modules.

Carrie Hemmings, M.Ed., is a second year doctoral student in Counselor Education and Supervision at Auburn University. She is dedicated to multicultural issues and advocacy efforts in counselor education and supervision. She incorporates these topics in the courses she teaches and within the supervision of counselors in training. Her research interests include assessing the efficacy of professionals in regard to race-based trauma among African Americans, and promoting efficacy among professionals when working within the culture of poverty. She has presented on issues related to multicultural competency among counselors, educators and supervisors at national, regional and state conferences.

Anna Holcombe is a 17-year-old from Hartwell, Ga., and is currently a dual-enrollment student at Emmanuel College. She became involved with bullying prevention through the 4-H program, which she is highly involved in. In 2012, she spoke on a youth panel at the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Summit in Washington, D.C. about her experience with bullying prevention. For the past two years, she taught at the National 4-H Healthy Living Summit about bully prevention. She loves sharing her knowledge and passion with others and continues to teach multiple classes and workshops state and nation wide for all age groups.
Kelli M. Jette, Ph.D., graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 2012. She has researched bullying and violence prevention since 2007. She currently teaches and supervises all areas of Educational Psychology and Human Development. Jette has researched and published on the topic of bullying since 2007.

Christi Jones, M.Ed., a thirteen-year veteran school counselor at Dadeville Elementary School, has recently been recognized as the Alabama School Counseling Association Elementary School Counselor of the Year. She is an advocate of student success and has been an integral part in the development of positive school culture through student leadership in her school. She is a graduate of Auburn University and is currently a second year student in the Auburn University Counselor Education doctoral program.

Joseph R. Jones, Ph.D., is a national scholar whose work attempts to create safe schools for all students. He has published copiously on the impacts of bullying and homophobia within K-12 and collegiate environments. His books include Bullying In Schools: A Professional Development for Educators, Unnormalizing Education: Addressing Homophobia in Higher Education and K-12 Schools, and Under the Bleachers: Teachers’ Reflections of What They Didn’t Learn in College. He posits bullying is a community construction; as such, it must be addressed by examining the community’s beliefs about difference and how those beliefs are social constructions.

Michael A. Keim, Ph.D., received an M.A.Ed. in School Counseling from Western Carolina University and a Ph.D. in Counselor Education from Auburn University. An army veteran, he served as an educator and school counselor in the public schools of North Carolina for over a decade. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Professional Counseling at the University of West Georgia. His research interests include ethical and legal issues in professional counseling, as well as issues relating to counseling in the military community, especially those involving school counseling service provision to children of deployed military parents.

Lacey Kennedy is the Youth Advocacy Organizer with AIDS Alabama. Their work focuses on expanding school districts’ anti-harassment policies to better serve the needs of LGBTQ students. They are also involved with the Magic City Acceptance Project, a coalition of Birmingham-area organizations and individuals dedicated to creating safe, affirming environments for LGBTQ youth. Lacey is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where they provided LGBTQ competency trainings for students and faculty through the Safe Zone program.

Ole Pete Key (see Keynote bio)

Virginia Lawley is the Director of Character and Leadership for Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, where she oversees programs and events for 26 clubs in 10 counties. Most recently Virginia was the Director of Academic success for Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta. She began her career with the James T. Anderson Boys Club in Marietta, Georgia in 1986 as an Education Director. She has also worked in educational programming and coaching for children and families since 1985, including serving as the English as a Second Language and Hispanic family liaison in Shelby County, Alabama.

Jeff Luce, LPC, joined Cenpatico in 2014 as Clinical Director of the Southern Region. Cenpatico’s expertise lies in managing benefits for vulnerable populations. The organization’s healthcare specialties include behavioral health, school-based services, specialty therapy and rehabilitation, community re-entry, and more. Jeff provides oversight of the clinical operations in Georgia, South Carolina, and Mississippi. He is an experienced mental health executive specializing in work with children and adolescents. Prior to joining Cenpatico, Jeff worked at a large mental health agency in Georgia and
developed data-driven solutions for agencies and mental health providers. He has a master’s degree in Professional Counseling from Georgia State University.

Mary Mason, MD, MBA, FACP, is a clinical assistant professor of Internal Medicine at the Washington University School of Medicine, an adjunct professor at the John Olin School of Business, and an attending physician in the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Internal Medicine Clinic. Dr. Mason is the Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President for Centene Corporation, a Fortune 500 company and leading multi-line healthcare enterprise that provides programs and related services to the rising number of under-insured and uninsured individuals. An active member in the community, Dr. Mason serves on the Board of Oasis and Girl Scouts of eastern Missouri. She is also active with the Little Medical School, an after-school program designed for elementary-aged students to encourage them to consider careers in medicine. The St. Louis Business Journal recognized Dr. Mason as a member of the 2008 class of 40 under 40.

Jody Manning, Parent Training and Information Center Director, has been at PACER for 11 years. She presents workshops to parents and professionals, coordinates multiple projects, and works with parents of children with disabilities to help them understand how to advocate on behalf of their children. In addition to professional experience, as the parent of a child with a disability Jody has a personal understanding of the challenges a parent encounters when a child is struggling. Jody finds her background in nursing, psychology, management, and social services to be an ideal combination to assist parents of children with disabilities as they navigate through bullying issues and the special education process.

Kate McHugh received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Richmond, and is currently working toward an M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy at Auburn University. She is a Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Adrienne Duke, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Auburn Human Development and Family Studies Department.

Kristian Mitchell is an upcoming senior at Tri-Cities High School where she is part of the National Art Honor Society. She is also a member of the Boys and Girls Club and of the Keystone Club, which is a teen leadership organization that gives members opportunities to volunteer in their community. Her hobbies include poetry and art. She wants to study graphic design, music technology, and technical theatre in college.

Carter B. Myers has spent a decade working with schools and mental health centers. Carter founded AnComm, creator of Talk About It®. He joined SchoolMessenger, after the acquisition of AnComm in 2011, serving as the Vice President of Anonymous Communications until his departure in 2013. In 2014 he foundedTxtAboutIt.com. He has presented at regional and national conferences for state departments of Mental Health, the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education, schools counselors, school safety, and bullying prevention. Carter graduated cum laude with a B.A. in Classical Studies from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia and holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi, School of Law.

Virginia O’Connell, M.Ed., is the Program Manager and State Coordinator for Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) at the Georgia Department of Education. Ginny also directs Georgia Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) funded through a five-year, $10 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Originally from Michigan, Ginny has been an educator for over 30 years, with experience in teaching and administration at the elementary, middle and high school levels in both general and special education.
Bill Parsons has thirty-three years of educational and leadership experience that include work at the elementary, middle, high school, and central office levels. Professional accolades range from a nomination as the Milken National Educator of the Year to top-ten placement for State Teacher of the Year as a classroom teacher. Mr. Parsons has provided practical bully-proofing workshops across the nation.

Leslie Pavez, co-presenter with Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, struggled with suicidal tendencies in the past and has now become an anti-bullying advocate.

Eryka Perry, chef, entrepreneur, and all around foodie has been playing in the kitchen since she was old enough to reach the stove. She has had the opportunity to travel a small part of the world experiencing the craft of others and honing her own. Receiving her culinary arts degree opened a door to a world of food never before imagined. Since receiving her degree in the summer of 2005 she has worked to cultivate this passion into a sought after skill, exploring every side of food possible. From cooking under classically trained chefs like Joe DiMagio Jr. and Gregory Reynolds, to teaching cooking classes to elementary students, Eryka knows good food and loves finding it, creating it, and sharing it with others. Eryka also travels the country with The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation as a presenter to thousands of students – her passion for education is well received by the students.

Oakley Perry, a native of Jeff Davis County Georgia, remembers being bullied throughout his school career, “I remember being told that I was ugly and just needed to die.” Oakley became involved with 4-H at age 9 and has been working with bullying prevention with 4-H for that past five years. He has been featured in books, spoken to thousands of youth, taught classes and workshops, and currently represents Social and Emotional Healthy for National 4-H Council in Washington D.C. During his Federal Partners Bullying Prevention Summit presentation, he stated, “I have dedicated my life to prevent bullying,” which is what he intends to do as he pursues a career as a 4-H Professional.

Trisha Prabhu, a high school student from Illinois developed software that prompts social media users to reconsider before posting vicious or threatening messages. Trisha’s ReThink project won her a spot as a Google Science Fair 2014 Global finalist; she also won first prize at 1871, Chicago’s technology and entrepreneurial hub. Trisha currently holds a provisional patent with the United States patent and Trademark Office for her ReThink product. She has increased awareness of the silent pandemic of cyberbullying through numerous public speaking engagements, including a “remarkable Disruptor” presentation at TEDxTeen London in October 2014 and TEDxGateway in Mumbai, India, in November 2014. Trisha has been selected as the Global Teen Leader by We Are Family Foundation, and during Spring 2015 she will be collaborating with global mentors to further her initiative to conquer cyberbullying.

Christopher Wesley Rice is a presenter for the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Music Therapy from Cecilia University in Louisiana. Previous to working for the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation; he was an accomplished educator working in numerous primary and secondary school settings. He is a certified teacher, who promotes the power of education. He currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama with his family.

Frank Schargel is a former classroom teacher, school counselor, and school administrator in an inner city Title 1 School. Recently he was nominated for the Brock International Prize in Education for “demonstrating clear evidence of success in dropout prevention and for retaining students in alternative education environments.” He is an internationally recognized speaker and author of twelve best-selling books. Routledge Press has published his latest book: Creating Safe Schools: A Guide for School Leaders, Classroom Teachers, Counselors and Parents. His work has been recognized by Business Week, Fortune
**Magazine, National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting System and the New York Times.**

Lynn Smelley is the Program Manager for The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, and Lead Presenter for The Choice Bus. A graduate of Faulkner University, Lynn has been with the MCSF since 2007. A dynamic speaker, Lynn is highly requested by schools and communities to speak to young people about the importance of education and making good choices in life. He is very active in the community – with the Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scout, and serves on the committee for the Literacy Council of Walker County, AL.

Kelsey Tainsh graduated from the University of Florida with High Honors, went to work for a Fortune 500 Company and now travels the country as a Professional Speaker. By the age of 13 she had become a world champion athlete and had been featured on the TV news show Entertainment Tonight. She also spent time in L.A. acting in movies & T.V. shows including but not limited to, “Rumor Has It” with Jennifer Aniston & Mark Ruffalo, “Gilmore Girl’s” & “Desperate Housewives.” Having succeeded in spite of life changing medical obstacles which caused her to be bullied and excluded, she brings a unique perspective on life and the ability to succeed.

Jonte C. Taylor is an Assistant Professor of Special Education at Penn State University. His research interests focus on bullying behavior in schools, student engagement in classroom settings, student motivation, and science instruction for students with disabilities. He has also worked collaboratively with classroom teachers to develop and research innovative teaching strategies for students.

Cheryl Reagan Varnadoe has been a 4-H professional with University of Georgia Extension for thirty years. Her degrees include the Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education – Extension from the University of Georgia. Since 1994 she has been a member of the Georgia State 4-H Faculty. Cheryl is a Senior Public Associate at the University of Georgia. She is nationally known as a 4-H bullying prevention advocate and served as an author for the National 4-H Bullying Prevention Guide.

Keisha Waites The Honorable Keisha Waites, a champion of anti-bullying legislation has amassed a national following because of her commitment to strengthening anti-bullying legislation around the country. Through the support and recognition of the likes of Montlick and Associates and a plethora of national Organizations, Representative Waites has implemented a national grass roots initiative that takes the anti-bullying campaign to the communities, homes, and families of at-risk students. With her trailblazing style, Representative Waites has participated in writing and passing life changing legislation such as the fallen hero bill which provides support to families of fallen public servants; HIV screening Inclusion law, which includes HIV testing as a standard option in medical exams; and legislation that ensures accessibility for disabled citizens in public buildings. Representative Waites is regarded as one of the most tenacious and dogged legislators in the General Assembly.

Debra Ward is a Professional Family & Child Development Regional Extension Educator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Auburn University, serving eight counties in the Southeast Region 4 District in Alabama. Her professional duties include program planning, implementation, and evaluation in the Public Service Fields including elementary, middle and high schools students. Ms. Ward presents at-risk programs in schools to enhance student grades and SAT scores. She also provides Parenting programs, including Family Life Education, Family and Child Development and Managing Your Home and personal life skills for the community. She received her B.S. Degree in Family Consumer Science from Jacksonville State University, Alabama, a Master Degree in Adult Education from Auburn University, and is presently pursuing an Education Specialist Degree (ED.S.) at Auburn University.

Workshop and Concurrent Session Listing
5th Annual Anti-Bullying Summit
Quanda Watson-Stevenson is a current member of the Northern District of Alabama Federal Anti-Bullying Campaign Task Force for United States Attorney Joyce Vance’s Office. She is a Program Director and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Child Advocacy Student Training (C.A.S.T.) and Juvenile Justice. She has presented research related to school violence and crime, bullying, truancy, and domestic violence at several national, state, and local conferences. She is the founder of Truancy Intervention and Prevention (T.I.P.) of Alabama and the Youth Education and Awareness (YEA) Conference of Alabama.

Shandreka B. West, M.Ed., is an eight year veteran professional/educator who currently serves as a fourth grade teacher at Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy. She became involved with bullying prevention programs while serving as a member of the School Improvement Committee and Leadership Team in 2010. Her dedication and commitment to changing the environment of learning are mirrored by the success of her scholars. She is a graduate of Columbus State University and is currently pursuing their Curriculum and Leadership doctoral program.

Dequadray White, recipient of A.U.’s 2014 Hero Award, has led various anti-bullying projects with the Jesse Draper Boys and Girls Club and BGCMA including writing and directing a play about bullying entitled No Nonsense. He served as Project Director for the Keystone National Project: “Help Wanted,” a multi-media project addressing Teen Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention. This year he has served as project lead with several teens for the 2015 Anti-Bullying initiative, “Technological Torture.” Dequadray plans to attend college with a major in Illustration and/or Art Therapy.

Elizabeth Williams is a special educator of 8 years currently working in Forsyth County Schools. She has piloted two self-contained classroom programs. She has a passion for working with people with disabilities and finding ways to integrate their abilities into inclusive group settings. As a sibling of a person with Down syndrome, she has been an active volunteer in various disabilities groups since childhood. She graduated from Mercer University with a B.S. Ed., from Georgia State University with an M. Ed., and is currently a doctoral student at Mercer University.

Susan Young is a national education consultant with the Developmental Studies Center based in Oakland, California. In this role, she presents workshop, presentations, and professional development for administrators, literacy coaches, after school leaders, and teachers across the country. Susan brings a balance of experience in working with both adults and children. She taught elementary and middle school grades in both public and private schools in Georgia and South Carolina.