



The Front Door to the Field

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2020

### CAST Community,

2020 has been a year of great challenge for higher education. We have faced yet another semester with hybridized learning and processing the trauma associated with the pandemic both individually and in stride with our colleagues in academia and those students we serve to empower. In spite of a tumultuous year, CAST continues to flourish due to your selfless dedication to making the world a better place for children. As we close out 2020, we are eighty-five programs strong and it is all because of this wonderful community.

As the CAST Director for Zero Abuse Project, it is not lost upon me how much you each sacrifice and how tirelessly you work to ensure that your students are prepared to end child abuse. You, as CAST faculty, stoke the flame of change that gives hope to children so desperately in need of it during this period in history. It is because of you that this world will come out stronger from this crisis and your leadership will continue to mend society and foster generations of children free from maltreatment. For that I am ever grateful and I continue to be humbled to work alongside each of you as an educational family forever dedicated to giving children the best opportunity for success as humanly possible.

Have a joyous holiday season and thank you for your continued efforts to change this world for the better. May 2021 provide you with even more opportunities to create a better future for our youth.

### Program Profile Pages

To better support and promote awareness of your program, we have provided CAST leadership with access to an institutional CAST profile page—a customizable website to tout one's CAST program. CAST institutions will now be able to more robustly represent their program at the national level through our website at no cost. Once your page is up and running we will run a CAST Highlight Article to broadcast your program. This is a great way to make your program stand out! To create your institution's profile page, use this: [Profile Submission Form](#)

### AVA Partner Resources

Please consider exploring the [CA ACES Academy](#) and content therein helmed through our partners at the [Academy on Violence & Abuse](#). They have several no-cost webinars for Credit available [here](#).

We also encourage you to consider participating in the AVA CAST Affinity Group. Currently we are looking for CAST faculty to collaborate and bring the Affinity Group to life with CAST-focused content. This is a great opportunity for bolstering your institution's presence globally and partnering with a major organization focused on health education initiatives. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Tyler at [tyler@zeroabuseproject.org](mailto:tyler@zeroabuseproject.org).

### Open Education Resource for CAST Faculty

This [open education resource](#) was created with the goal of sharing resources widely available and in-use by other programs to provide quality education through the rapid transition to distance learning. We'd love to have you contribute and share best content/practices throughout this platform. Likewise, this resource is always accessible at no cost to you to help develop new or supplemental content for your courses.

### CAST Program Approval Process

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to look into getting your CAST program approved through the Zero Abuse Project. For more information on what this process looks like, you can check out the CAST Website [here](#). Please note: due to COVID-19, approval assessments will be conducted via zoom through 2021.

### APSAC/NY Foundling Course Collaboration

As you begin exploring CAST content expansion or new course considerations in 2021, please consider making use of the APSAC and NY Foundling [Online Course](#). CAST faculty, [through collaboration with these outstanding organizations](#), are able to access the course at significant discounts to their students, alongside APSAC membership discounts specific to CAST faculty.

### CAST Program Highlights

We would like to congratulate The State University of New York at Fredonia on their [CAST certificate program approval](#). Deployed in the College of Education, it is available to students both on-campus and through the open SUNY online degree curriculum. Many thanks to Drs. Laura Geraci and Carrie Fitzgerald for their tireless efforts in New York to bring CAST to the Fredonia Students.

During the Spring of 2017, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) Department of Social Work made a commitment to shift their current in-house Child Welfare Certificate to a CAST Certificate in an effort to more robustly prepare students who were planning to pursue a career in Child Welfare. With the development of more intense programming, the Department felt compelled to explore additional ways to support students. Through the help of Federal Title IV-E funds, UWEC has awarded 16 students with Title IV-E Fellowships that pay for two semesters of tuition and provide students with an \$1,800 stipend. In addition, the grant provides funding for these students to participate in a six-day child welfare focused immersion and training in Illinois. Look for a full article in the March Newsletter about the UWEC CAST program and the impact it is having for their students and the employers that are hiring them.