



The Front Door to the Field

Quarterly Newsletter

September 2020

Esteemed CAST Colleagues,

We hope that the second quarter newsletter finds you each safe and in good spirits as we embark upon another academic year. This year, much like our last semester of the 2019-2020 academic calendar, is one filled with uncertainty and fluidity that will no doubt present unique challenges to our institutions of higher learning. In spite of the difficult path before us, one thing remains clear: CAST is a dynamic program capable of adapting to the ever-shifting changes of our learning environments as we work to provide quality learning experiences for our students during the pandemic. Your stories of transitioning to equitable, distance and online learning and adapting simulations to virtual environments have been inspiring. Likewise, the engagement we've had through emails and virtual meetings with CAST faculty striving to model best practices in flexible learning in response to the pandemic have been encouraging and provide insight into how higher education overall can adapt, innovate, and thrive when presented with challenges related to sustainability and educational accessibility. As essential workers on the front lines, be it in the field or classroom, we applaud all you, as CAST faculty and leadership, are doing to produce a competent child-serving workforce and we are ever grateful for all you do for the youth of your communities during these unprecedented times. As always, please keep in touch as you have any emerging CAST needs or questions. During these difficult times, please remember: the CAST community is a resilient, cohesive network and together we will continue to succeed in making the world a better place for children.

Thank you for all that you do,
Tyler Council, CAST Director

*For technical assistance, or general CAST program information, you can connect with Tyler via email at Tyler@zeroabuseproject.org

CAST Data Collection - Call to Action

Dear CAST colleague,

As a pioneer in the CAST movement, you have fundamentally changed the education of future child protection professionals. As of this writing, CAST is operating in 85 institutions of higher education in 28 states with additional CAST programs just around the corner. We have published 8 peer-reviewed studies documenting the effectiveness of CAST with several additional studies nearing completion.

In order to keep this movement strong, we need your help. Please take our online survey so that we have accurate information about your CAST program and its impact on the field. This is critical in our ongoing efforts to secure federal, state and private funding that will help you and other CAST institutions. This will also aid us in developing a strategic plan for sustaining and growing CAST in the years to come. This information will also be helpful to the growing number of researchers who are assessing CAST. To complete the survey, please click [here](#).

Thank you for your service to the field of child protection and the children whose cause is our concern. You are a true hero.

Victor Vieth

Director, Education & Research

Program Profile Pages

To better support and promote awareness of your program at the national level, 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 nationally through our website at no cost. This is a great tool for raising awareness to your program.

An example of what a standard profile page will look like for an institution is available here: [Sample Profile Page](#)
To create your institution's profile page, use this: [Profile Submission Form](#)

Northwest Arkansas Community College CAST Program

Stephanie Morris, CAST Program Coordinator and Zero Abuse Project's CAST Community College liaison, recently published an article showcasing the Northwest Arkansas Community College CAST program. The article is published online through the League for Innovation in the Community College [website](#) and showcases how CAST better prepares students for frontline employment through experiential learning. Zero Abuse Project would like to congratulate NWACC and Stephanie on this accomplishment. If you'd like to learn more about the NWACC CAST program, please contact Stephanie at smorris6@nwacc.edu.

NPEIV Handbook

Several experts at Zero Abuse Project have authored chapters within the textbook, including Director of Education and Research Victor Vieth, who served as an Editor in Chief. Numerous chapters focus on child maltreatment and child welfare, and the book's emphasis on violence across the lifespan allows for a great resource for CAAST (Child and Adult Advocacy Studies) programs, as well. This publication could be considered as a no-cost textbook to adopt for one's course, as a supplemental resource for readings in the field, or as a source to pull content and make an open education resource textbook for one's CAST/CAAST courses.

The link to the handbook can be found [here](#).

AVA:CAST Collaboration Opportunity

The Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) has partnered with Zero Abuse Project and would like to launch an Affinity Group centered around public health or healthcare related content in the context of CAST programming. More information on the purpose of AVA Affinity Groups can be found [here](#). If interested in collaborating with Zero Abuse Project on this exciting project, please contact Tyler Council for more information.