

SEPTEMBER 2022



The Front Door to the Field

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

Annual CAST Data Collection

To identify key trends in CAST growth and sustainability, Zero Abuse Project must gather CAST data from our CAST-Approved and implemented universities annually. As you embark on the Fall 2022 semester, **we are requiring data from CAST programs from the 2021-2022 academic year.** This data is important for Zero Abuse Project to continually analyze key nationwide performance indicators, major CAST trends, and to be able to assist in support and research efforts to empower and enrich CAST sustainability for your programs, alongside improving the ways in which CAST can continue to grow and evolve at new postsecondary sites. Please fill out the **2021-2022 CAST Data Form** with your applicable CAST data from the last academic year **by November 7, 2022.** Your response is important and greatly appreciated. Findings will be compiled into our annual CAST Impact Report and disseminated in a future CAST Newsletter.

"CASTing Call" Collaborative Highlights

CAST awareness and growth continues to expand at a rapid rate thanks to amazing collaborations with frontline, child-serving agencies who recognize the potential for this curriculum. To that end, the CAST program has engaged in numerous collaborations since arriving under the facilitation of Zero Abuse Project. Over the coming months we will be highlighting some of our many partnerships through our monthly "CASTing Call" videos, which showcase these agencies and highlight the ways in which, together, we can put a stop to child abuse and neglect. Follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn at Zero Abuse Project) to see our videos and highlights.

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CAST Director Elected as NPEIV President

[The National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan \(NPEIV\)](#) and Zero Abuse Project are pleased to announce that CAST Director, [Dr. Tyler Council](#), will be the new incoming President-Elect in 2022. NPEIV has long been a supporter of the CAST movement and the NPEIV Action Teams and experts are continually exploring new horizons by which CAST can flourish and increase its global presence. Dr. Council has been a long-standing NPEIV member and has most recently served as Co-Chair of Action Team 2, which is dedicated to training and mentoring. NPEIV is committed to ending all forms of interpersonal violence and breaking the cycle of abuse on a national, multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural scale. To learn more about the history of NPEIV, our Action Teams, and how you can join our collective cause to make the world free from violence once and for all, click [here](#). Dr. Council looks forward to connecting directly with the NPEIV community and fostering greater outreach, awareness and expansion for all anti-violence tools, resources, and information our experts facilitate to the frontline champions combating interpersonal violence on a daily basis.

Fontana Center Collaborative Projects

The CAST program at Zero Abuse Project has partnered with the [Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection](#) to expand and enhance the reach of CAST-derived learning opportunities to traditional postsecondary and new secondary learner populations. We recently launched a 2-week, pre-college enrichment program entitled "Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect" at a New Jersey secondary school, which focuses on building fundamental skills and knowledge pertaining to recognizing and addressing child abuse from a personal and professional standpoint. This program also gives students the opportunity to engage with and learn more about child protection occupational pathways that exist. We are thrilled by the positive outreach and interest in this program, and as such, will be connecting with you—our wonderful CAST Community—to explore future sites of this nature in the near future,

UIS CAST Re-Approval

Congratulations to the [University of Illinois-Springfield](#) for successfully navigating the CAST Approval process for a 2nd consecutive time! CAST Approval is equivalent to standard accreditation processes through higher education institutions seeking to demonstrate their proficiency and content delivery for their academic programs. The process entails a comprehensive evaluation of a CAST program from a policy, administrative, faculty, student, content, and pedagogy standpoint to determine if a CAST program demonstrates field-leading proficiency in child maltreatment education. [Watch Dr. Betsy Goulet](#) discuss the benefits of CAST instruction, and reach out to Dr. Council for more details.

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Coffee & CAST

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) will be launching a quarterly virtual roundtable event this October called "**Coffee & CAST**". The event will consist of a presentation from CAST Director Dr. Tyler Council, a roundtable discussion from our expert panel, and a 30-minute Q&A where we invite registrants to dialogue with our team and bring their questions about how best to serve the community of students entering into the child advocacy profession.

The conversation will address relevant questions for forensic interviewers, child advocacy centers, law enforcement, and prosecutors, and include topics covering the challenges we see in education and training for new hires, turnover at the agency level, the potential impact of the CAST program on the community, and the ways in which CAST prepares its students for the realities of frontline work. [Register here](#) for our first session taking place on October 3rd at 10:00am EST.

CAST Profile Pages

The timing of this newsletter usually correlates with the start of a new semester for CAST faculty and their students; as such, we want to once again extend an invite to submit your institutional information to our CAST Profile Pages form for recognition on our website. It's a quick, convenient way to showcase your efforts as a CAST program dedicated to ending child abuse through educational initiatives. The national support for your efforts can be a compelling item to showcase to prospective students, potential funders, and administrators. To that end, please consider filling out your Profile Page using our [convenient form](#) today. If interested, we can also work with you to create an institutional spotlight package that highlights your CAST program and its unique offerings and merits. Please reach out to the CAST Director for more details or questions about this opportunity.

