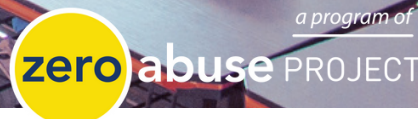


APRIL 2023



The Front Door to the Field

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

zero abuse PROJECT

CAST *Virtual Seminar*

The Front Door to the Field

NOV 8-9, 2023

The Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Program at Zero Abuse Project is hosting its inaugural FREE virtual seminar this **November 8th & 9th!** Whether you are a faculty member interested in implementing CAST or a current CAST instructor looking for additional resources, you will gain access to valuable information and resources to enhance the education of next generation frontline professionals in child protection.

The seminar will be held on two different days to accommodate differing schedules. Attendees will have the option to attend sessions on November 8th or 9th at their convenience. Learn more and [register](#) today!

### 2021-2022 Impact Report

We are happy to share the 2021-2022 [CAST Impact Report](#) which showcases the incredible effect CAST is having in higher education.

The data captured explores the major trends and information from the field. Over half of our CAST programs contributed to the 2021-2022 Annual Survey disseminated by Zero Abuse Project and here are some of the highlights:

- **36%** of faculty respondents have seen increased CAST enrollment from the previous year.
- An estimated **2,200** graduates entered the workforce in 2022 prepared to protect children and respond to abuse.
- Across CAST programs, we are impacting the education of almost **10,000** students each year.

# PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

## CAST Winter Roundtable Update

The CAST Team held its first Winter Roundtable event on March 7th. Florida CAST faculty and [Florida State University College of Social Work](#), [Florida Institute of Technology](#), and the [University of South Florida](#), alongside advocates from the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, shared why it is essential to expand CAST in all two and four-year schools in Florida. These institutions also shared success stories and strategies that helped them launch the curriculum at their institution. In case you missed it, here is the [recording](#) for you to view and share at your convenience. To get an update on our next CAST Roundtable, please [subscribe](#) to our mailing list.

## Zero Abuse Project & Strategic Collaborations

Zero Abuse Project hosted the January [ACEs Health Champions Gathering](#), where Dr. Betsy Goulet led a 'Hot Topic' discussion entitled, "**Why Didn't I Know This Sooner?**" **The Impact of CAST Education on the Next Generation of Frontline Professionals**". The recording can be found on the [Academy on Violence and Abuse \(AVA\)](#) website.

We also held a state-centric Wisconsin Coffee & CAST discussion with University of WI-Eau Claire CAST Faculty, state Child Advocacy Center affiliates, and the WI Department of Justice to discuss statewide implementation ideas. If you'd like to host a state-centered CAST event, please contact us.

## Donations

We envision a world without child sexual abuse, and [your gift](#) can make that happen. Your donations will provide support to Zero Abuse Project, and directly fund programs such as Child Advocacy Studies, that will help protect children from abuse. As part of our mission to utilize technology in our fight to protect children, we are happy to accept [cryptocurrency donations](#) through our partnership with [The Giving Block](#).

## Zero Abuse Project Seeks CAST Testimonials

Zero Abuse Project is seeking stories of faculty or student success as it pertains to a given CAST program and its impact on its learners, frontline agencies, and the larger community. If you have a testimonial (or several) to share that you'd like to have highlighted, please feel free to [share these with us](#) or contact us to discuss recording testimonials for dissemination.

We appreciate CAST impact stories and would love to hear from you!

# PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS



## Zero Abuse Project Summit

The [Annual Zero Abuse Project Summit](#) is back in-person in Orlando, Florida. The Summit will focus on the current research and emerging issues in forensic interviewing and child abuse investigations. This conference is for all multidisciplinary team members, including law enforcement, CPS, prosecutors, and forensic interviewers. This year, we will host our National Peer Review on **June 7th** for currently practicing forensic interviewers. The peer review is open to 75 participants. Learn more and [register](#).

## CAST Profile Pages

We want to share your CAST program with the larger community! Information about your program helps us with congressional meetings and can strengthen our strategic efforts to find funding for both new and existing CAST programs. Please take 10 minutes to [fill out a CAST Profile Page](#) so we can create a unique marketing page that succinctly captures your program at a glance. Prospective students, administrators, local/state/federal leaders, and others from within the CAST network can quickly access and explore what your program has to offer, and can reach out rapidly to explore resource sharing, funding collaborations, and research efforts.

## News? Updates? Collaborations? Contact Us!

If you have a news story to share, would like to write an article for our newsletter/website, or have ideas for funding collaboration and research, please contact the CAST Director at [tyler@zeroabuseproject.org](mailto:tyler@zeroabuseproject.org). The next newsletter will deploy in June and we'd love to share your stories and opportunities!



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