

MARCH 2024



The Front Door to the Field

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

### Annual Impact Report

Zero Abuse is excited to unveil the latest **CAST Impact Report**, showcasing the tangible outcomes of our initiatives in higher education and child welfare. This report is the result of data collected through our annual CAST Data Collection survey, reflecting the significant contributions of our higher education network and their dedication to child safety. Our heartfelt thanks go to CAST faculty and participating institutions for their data submissions for the 2022-2023 academic year.

### CAST Toolkits Available with More to Come!

As summer approaches, we want to remind CAST faculty of Zero Abuse's three undergraduate CAST Toolkits, essential for educating future mandated reporters and child-serving professionals. These Toolkits offer flexibility and thorough preparation, with 8 weeks worth of materials per course.

We are excited to announce the Clinical Toolkit for healthcare programs is now also available! **Schedule a conversation** with the CAST Team to learn more.

# PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

## **Florida Tech Students Present CAST Data at SEPA**

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Zero Abuse would like to recognize and thank the **Florida Tech** students and their CAST Instructor, **Dr. Travis Conradt**, for their outstanding poster presentation at the 2024 Southeastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida on March 13th. The research they conducted as part of Zero Abuse's OJJDP-funded grant provided **insightful data** on the state of undergraduate child protection curricula in the Southeast, and a **comparative analysis** with graduate programs in social work and psychology across the nation. Zero Abuse Project commends their dedication and their significant contribution in highlighting gaps in child maltreatment training in U.S. postsecondary learning.

## **Faculty Training at Shepherd University**

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As CAST programming expands nationwide, faculty training is essential to improve the quality of education for future child-serving professionals. Dr. **Craig Cline** of **Shepherd University** recognized this need and initiated specialized training through Zero Abuse to equip new faculty with the skills for optimal CAST instruction. In March 2024, Zero Abuse conducted a comprehensive virtual training for selected faculty on core undergraduate CAST courses. The training focused on best practices, including project-based and experiential learning, mindfulness in education, and trauma-aware teaching. To equip your faculty for effective CAST instruction, **contact us** for more information on available CAST Institutional Training options.

## **We Want to Hear from YOU!**

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CAST thrives on the grassroots momentum generated by faculty members exchanging their stories. We invite all CAST-affiliated schools to share their successes, important news, and programmatic updates with us! Your experiences, whether they highlight best practices or present learning opportunities, are valuable to the CAST community

If you would like to share updates for CAST Community awareness, please email **Tyler Council**, CAST Director and **Nicole Davis**, CAST Manager.

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## CAST Credentialing Renewal at Northwest Arkansas Community College

Congratulations to [Northwest Arkansas Community College \(NWACC\)](#) on the successful renewal of their CAST Credentialing! The assessment uncovered the remarkable ways in which CAST champion and faculty member, Stephanie Morris, engages with her students. Her leadership and the unwavering commitment of NWACC's CAST program to fighting and ultimately ending child maltreatment shone brightly throughout the evaluation. The NWACC CAST program is truly exemplary, serving as an example of the profound impact and success achievable with this curriculum. Well done to everyone involved in this significant achievement!

## Contact Us!

The CAST Team at Zero Abuse has expanded its outreach capabilities, and we want to share some new ways you can reach out for assistance! These contact options are also available on the new CAST website and CAST Portal.

- **CAST implementation assistance**: For colleges and universities interested in adding the CAST curriculum to their postsecondary programs.
- **CAST collaboration**: Use this form to discuss potential partnerships, grant collaboration, and cooperative projects with the CAST Team and your organization.
- **CAST training & technical assistance**: Use this form to request CAST-focused training for your faculty, staff, or professional organization. We offer education-centric training on best practices for CAST instruction and frontline education on core CAST topics for child-serving experts. You can also use this form if you need technical assistance or have questions about the curriculum.
- **CAST enhancement**: Use this avenue to share your ideas and concepts for how the CAST Team can continue to improve and expand the curriculum.

Stay updated by **subscribing** to our latest news updates for CAST and other Zero Abuse programs, or follow us on **social media** for the latest information as we grow and flourish!

