2026 Heartland Campus Safety Summit Program

HEARTLAND

campus safety summit

A two-day conference on preventing and responding
to relationship-based violence on college and university campuses.

November 18-19, 2026 | University of Kansas | Burge Union

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

8:15 AM – 12:15 PM	**Pre-Conference**
12:30 – 1:30 PM	**Check-In & Vendor Booths Open**
1:30 – 1:45 PM	**Welcome & Opening Remarks**
1:45 – 3:15 PM	**Keynote Presentation**
3:20 – 4:20 PM	**Breakout Sessions I**
4:30 – 5:30 PM	**Closing Keynote**

Thursday, November 19, 2026

8:00 – 8:15 AM	**Welcome Back**
8:15 – 9:45 AM	**Opening Plenary Session**
9:50 – 11:00 AM	**General Assembly Session**
11:10 AM– 12:10 PM	**Breakout Sessions II**
12:20 – 1:20 PM	**Lunch & Networking**
1:30 – 2:30 PM	**Breakout Session III**
2:40 – 3:40 PM	**Breakout Session IV**
3:50 – 4:50 PM	**Breakout Session V**

Pre-Conference:

At the Intersection: Title IX, Student Conduct, and Behavioral Intervention

Lauren Starnes, JD, Consultant, TNG; Resolution Officer, FAIR Center

This session will explore how Title IX, student conduct, and behavioral intervention intersect in campus response. Participants will examine opportunities for collaboration, information sharing, referrals, and case coordination while maintaining clear roles and responsibilities. Through practical examples, the session will highlight strategies for reducing silos and creating a more coordinated approach to student support, safety, and institutional response.

Opening Keynote Presentation:

Title IX & Clery in Practice: From Requirements to Response

Lauren Starnes, JD, Consultant, TNG; Resolution Officer, FAIR Center

This session will focus on the practical application of Title IX and Clery Act requirements in everyday campus response. Attendees will explore common areas of overlap, key compliance considerations, and strategies for applying policy and regulatory requirements in real-world situations. The session will emphasize practical decision-making, coordination across campus partners, and actionable skills attendees can bring back to their institutions.

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Closing Session:

Equip To Prevent: Emotional Intelligence and Gender-Based Violence Primary Prevention

Thecia Jenkins, Training Director, Harris County Coordinating Council

Dating/Domestic and Sexual Violence crimes are extremely emotional. The aftermath of these crimes often leads to loss of confidence, inability to express oneself, and other trauma-related symptoms. These crimes may also lead a student to walk away from the future they envisioned when they came to your campus. This workshop provides you with a framework to build a primary prevention strategy for your campus to prevent dating/domestic and sexual violence using the competencies of emotional intelligence. Emotional Intelligence is one of the most sought-after skills in today's workplace; so what would happen if campuses introduced this strategy to equip students to build the skills to manage themselves and their relationships while in college? Let's talk about emotional intelligence as a prevention tool.

Opening Plenary Session:

Ditch the Script: Engaging Men in Campus Violence Prevention

Kamaile Patton & Andi Otto, Program Specialists, Futures Without Violence

College campuses are navigating a critical moment in engaging young men around connection, care, and responsibility. This session by Futures Without Violence will provide an overview of key strategies for engaging college men as partners in violence prevention and building stronger campus communities. Futures Without Violence's CATAPULT: Campus Action team will share practical approaches to engaging men through relationship-building, messaging, storytelling, student voice, and peer leadership. Participants will then explore concrete campus examples—including Unscripted, a national storytelling and dialogue campaign that invites young men to question the expectations they've inherited and consider the stories they want to tell about manhood, relationships, mental health and community. Drawing on current research and campus-based practice, the session will explore how efforts like Unscripted can complement existing prevention work, activate student leadership, and support campus cultures grounded in care, respect, and accountability. Attendees will leave the session with renewed inspiration to engage men on campus, practical tools, and considerations for adapting these strategies to their own campus contexts.

General Assembly Session:

Social Health: The Missing Link Between Identity, Belonging, & Opportunity

Kenneth Scott, Founder, REACH, Creator of Social Health Brand, Adj. Professor, Rice University

Student success is influenced by more than academics. It is shaped by the relationships students build, the communities they join, and the opportunities they access along the way. In this interactive session, participants will explore the concept of Social Health and its connection to identity, belonging, and opportunity. Using the BECS Framework (Boundaries, Equality, Communication, and Self-Esteem), attendees will explore the foundational elements of healthy relationships and practical strategies for helping students build, maintain, and navigate them. Participants will also explore how relationship dynamics influence student well-being, engagement, and success, while identifying practical ways to foster healthier campus environments where students can thrive.

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Breakout Sessions:

Cultivating Protective Communities: Safer Campuses Utilizing Violence Prevention through Environmental Design

Taylor Jones, Prevention Coordinator, Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center at the University of Kansas; Jordan Martin, Director of Advocacy, Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC); Kaiti Blackburn, MPS, Executive Director, Jana's Campaign; and Callie Dyer, Executive Director, Finney County Health Coalition/LiveWell Finney County

Representatives across the state of Kansas will participate in a panel discussion describing their experiences during a 4-year cycle of implementing violence prevention through environmental design techniques. Panel members will include Jana's Campaign (Ellis County), Livewell Finney County (Finney County), and Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC/ Sedgwick County). The panel will discuss prevalence of sexual and domestic violence in their communities, their work in sexual violence prevention, and the effects they have seen since implementing CPTED education and practices.

Being Critical of What We Love: Facilitating a Blameless Retrospect

Jen Brockman, Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center, University of Kansas

After pouring our time, talent, and treasure into prevention and/or response programming it's normal to feel personally connected to the both the outcome and the process. It's also normal to experience defensiveness when these endeavors experience hurdles or critical feedback. Utilizing a Blameless Retrospective model for post program or process evaluation is a helpful tool to keep your staff and campus partners engaged and to avoid programmatic stagnation (aka "but that's the way we have always done it"). Participants in this introductory conversation will receive the building blocks to implement a Blameless Retrospective within their own departments. This includes facilitation templates and communication scripts.

Beyond One-Size-Fits-All: Considerations for Serving Unique Campus Populations

Rachel Rolf, JD, Assistant Professor of Business, and Stephanie Huddle, PhD, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Peru State University

Every campus community has populations with unique personal, cultural, social, and institutional characteristics that can shape how its members experience, report, and engage with Title IX and related processes and support. This session will involve facilitated discussion and scenario-based problem solving to explore legally sound, practical strategies for effectively supporting and working with diverse campus populations, including, for example, neurodivergent students, LGBTQ+ students, international students, student-athletes, fraternity and sorority members, students at small institutions, and other communities with distinct needs. Attendees will explore how to balance legal compliance with equitable, accessible, and culturally responsive practices to better serve the diverse needs of their campus communities.

Supporting a Survivor's Health and Wellness: Sharing Skills and Resources

Rachel Teague, Health Educator, University of Kansas Health Education Resource Office, and Melissa Foree, CARE Coordinator, University of Kansas CARE Services

Interpersonal violence impacts the entire health and wellness of a survivor and there is no one-size-fits-all response. Using SAMHSA's Eight Dimensions of Wellness, Melissa Foree and Rachel Teague of the University of Kansas will facilitate a discussion on supporting a

survivor's health in higher education. We will explore research, national and state policy trends, and considerations for a wide range of strategies in our rapidly changing campus climates. Every campus and community is different in its strengths and barriers, so participants are encouraged to share their experiences, bring their questions, and network with colleagues.

How Will I Know?: Developing a Program Assessment Plan for Campus Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Practitioners

Kelsey Hunter, LMSW, Assistant Director, Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center, University of Kansas

Do you struggle with writing reports or grant applications because you're not sure how to demonstrate the impact of your work? Does the thought of gathering data about your programs give you a splitting headache? Whether you work in prevention or response, program assessment is how we understand what makes our programs effective, how they can improve, and how to tell their stories to the people who matter -- but many busy campus practitioners haven't had the time or training to develop an assessment plan. In this session, we'll demystify program assessment together. You'll learn to create efficient tools that will help you make your programs stronger and more responsive to the needs of your campus community (and that will help you brag to your boss and your funders.) We'll cover developing learning outcomes, writing assessment questions, tracking your program activity, and meaningfully sharing your results. You'll practice building an assessment plan for one of your own programs, and you'll leave with a personalized assessment toolkit to make implementing your plan a breeze.

Timely Warnings in Practice: From Incident Report to Campus Notification

Jason Goodman, Director of Clery Compliance; Baileigh Mertens, Communications Specialists in the office of Civil Rights & Title IX; Kajsa Mullenix, Director of External Affairs in the office of Civil Rights & Title IX, University of Kansas

Universities that participate in Title IV funding are required to comply with the Clery Act. Timely Warnings are notices required by the Clery Act and distributed campus-wide when an incident occurring in the university's Clery geography poses a serious or continuing threat. The goal of Timely Warnings is to provide community members with information that helps them make decisions to keep themselves safer. At the University of Kansas, the process of developing a Timely Warning starts with a report from a community member, which is then assessed and sent to the Timely Warning team for review. Once the team decides to distribute a Timely Warning, the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX External Affairs team then drafts and disseminates it. During this session, attendees will learn about the Clery Act, gain insight into the operational and decision-making processes that occur before a Timely Warning is issued, and examine how feedback from community members has helped improve the accuracy, effectiveness, and clarity of these communications. This session is ideal for professionals involved in their institution's Timely Warning process, as well as individuals seeking a broader understanding of Timely Warnings and their role in campus safety and compliance.

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Bystander In Action: 15 Years of SafeBar

Zach Newby, Education Specialist, The Sexual Trauma Care Center and Kelsey Hunter, LMSW, Assistant Director, Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center at the University of Kansas

It has been 15 years of SafeBar Alliance in Lawrence Kansas! For over 15 years, SafeBar Alliance has taught bystander intervention skills to service industry staff, empowering them to interrupt and de-escalate harassment. Dozens of establishments in Lawrence have been trained through the program, and principles from the SafeBar program have been used nationwide to help communities build their own bystander intervention programs. Learn from past and present SafeBar Facilitators on the origins of Safebar and where the program is headed!

Navigating Complexity: Advanced Issues in Title IX Investigations and Hearings

Rachel Rolf, JD, Assistant Professor of Business, Peru State University

This advanced session is an opportunity for Title IX professionals to strengthen their skills in managing complex issues that arise during investigations and hearings. This session will explore compliant and defensible investigation strategy and hearing management, including the handling of advanced evidentiary issues, such as relevance, credibility determinations, and challenges relating to digital evidence. Participants will also have the opportunity to consider the application of jurisdictional and procedural due process requirements to complex case scenarios.

Belonging is Safety: Using Social Media Strategies to Foster Safety & Prevention

Baileigh Mertens, Communications Specialists in the office of Civil Rights & Title IX; Kajsa Mullenix, Director of External Affairs in the office of Civil Rights & Title IX; Ally Boos, Student; and Ellie Payne, Student, University of Kansas

This presentation explores how the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX at the University of Kansas uses social media campaigns to promote a sense of belonging as a foundational component of safety and violence prevention. A sense of belonging is necessary for Jayhawks to succeed because it directly impacts psychological safety. By ensuring that each Jayhawk feels that they belong and their voice matters, we can increase the likelihood that incidents of violence will be reported, which in turn can help create a safer campus environment overall. In this session, participants will learn how proactive awareness campaigns can reduce isolation, increase trust in support systems, and encourage individuals to seek help. Drawing from social media initiatives that recognize heritage & identity, religious holidays, safety content, and opportunities for campus engagement, we will examine how belonging-centered messaging can strengthen the culture across our various campuses. Attendees will leave with campaign ideas and engagement tactics that can be implemented across various campus environments. By reframing safety through the lens of connection and belonging, this presentation offers a model for creating healthier, more supportive communities.

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Obsession: The Reality of Modern-Day Stalking

Faith Lopez, Youth Prevention Coordinator, The Willow Domestic Violence Center

In this session, participants will define what stalking is, how it impacts individuals, and its prevalence in young adults' lives. We will focus on the role of technology, social media, and the unique environment of college campuses in stalking. Highlight the services provided by The Willow Domestic Violence Center to promote survivor safety through a client-centered approach. In this session, we will discuss practical tools to promote safety for themselves and others. Finally, we want to provide an opportunity for a discussion on current challenges universities are facing in addressing the topic of stalking.

Safety Starts Before a Crisis: Building a Campus Safety Checklist for Prevention & Preparedness

Baileigh Mertens, Communications Specialists in the office of Civil Rights & Title IX; Kajsa Mullenix, Director of External Affairs in the office of Civil Rights & Title IX; Ally Boos, Student; and Ellie Payne, Student, University of Kansas

The Office of Civil Rights & Title IX has engaged in a collaborative process to create a Safety Checklist geared toward promoting healthy campus cultures through preparation and resources. In this session, attendees will learn about the research, logistics, and creative process behind the Safety Checklist, which fosters a strong partnership between the university and its community, alerting community members to potential threats and enabling the reduction of harm. The Checklist is separated into sections based on relevancy, with emphasis on consent education, prevention of stalking and domestic violence, and personal safety. The goal of this Safety Checklist is to ensure that all students, staff, and faculty at the University of Kansas campuses and instructional sites are aware of the resources available to them and show KU's commitment to increasing safety and reducing violence on its campuses.

Community Unplugged: "Unconferencing" for Prevention

Charity Jordan Rex, Co-Director, Milly Saywers Center

Discover how one domestic violence shelter brought a community together for a day of learning on safety and violence prevention using the unconference model. Uncover the basics of how to plan and run your own unconference and experience it firsthand with a mini unconference walk-through. The unconference model is driven by attendees who can propose sessions that are relevant and meaningful to them which allows for a wider variety of voices and topics to be heard.

Addressing GBV through Sport*: Coaching Leadership and Respect (CLEAR) Workshop

Kamaile Patton & Andi Otto, Program Specialists, Futures Without Violence

Coaches hold a uniquely trusted position in the lives of male student-athletes, making athletics a powerful entry point for violence prevention and positive culture change. . This workshop by Futures Without Violence introduces CLEAR (Coaching Leadership And Respect), the college edition of the internationally recognized program, Coaching Boys Into

Men. CLEAR equips college coaches to lead their athletes through 12 short, structured weekly conversations that promote positive masculinity, mental wellbeing, healthy relationships, and respect. Participants will explore CLEAR's core components, curriculum, and evidence base, and consider how the program can fit within their campus context. The workshop will also highlight practical strategies for getting coaches and athletes engaged and provide a roadmap for taking CLEAR from introduction to implementation on campus.

**Note: While CLEAR was designed with athletics in mind, the program can and has been adapted for other campus settings with male students. Campuses without an athletic department can still benefit from the workshop and explore how CLEAR's approach could be used with other groups of college men.*

The First 15 Minutes: Building a Trauma-Informed Campus Response Before, During, and After a Mental Health Crisis

MacKenzie Swan, Crisis Manager/MHFA Instructor, Iroquois Center for Human Development

A mental health crisis rarely begins at the moment a student asks for help—it is often the result of warning signs, missed opportunities for intervention, and escalating trauma. Likewise, recovery does not end when emergency responders leave. A coordinated, trauma-informed response before, during, and after a crisis can significantly improve safety, reduce re-traumatization, and connect students to the ongoing support they need. This presentation provides campus professionals with a practical framework for recognizing risk factors early, responding effectively during a behavioral health crisis related to relationship violence, sexual violence, or stalking, and implementing post-crisis strategies that promote healing and reduce the likelihood of future crises. Participants will learn how to identify warning signs before a crisis occurs, respond with confidence during high-stress situations, and collaborate across disciplines to provide meaningful follow-up care. Using realistic campus scenarios, attendees will work through the critical decisions made in the first 15 minutes of a crisis and explore how those decisions influence long-term outcomes for students.