



ABOUT WITH US

The WITH US Center for Bystander Intervention at Cal Poly was established in 2018 with a primary charge of investigating the role of bystander apathy and bystander intervention in preventing harm and improving the health, safety and success of college students. The tragic death of first-year Cal Poly student Carson Starkey in 2008, and the persistent trend of preventable harm and death among undergraduate student populations across the U.S., were the impetus for the Center and its mission.

The Center is led by a team of expert social psychology and public health faculty researchers, multidisciplinary prevention practitioners, and experienced student affairs administrators dedicated to establishing WITH US as a national research center and thought leader for combating bystander apathy and empowering communities of proactive bystanders (upstanders). The ultimate goal of the Center's work is to provide colleges and universities with evidence-based strategies and solutions to prevent harm and lives lost in situations where bystander intervention and peer accountability could have been a mitigating, lifesaving factor. Our work is centered on preventing reducing harm from sexual violence, hazing, unhealthy drug and alcohol use, bias and exclusion, and mental health crises.

Our Mission: To empower peer-led movements of proactive bystander intervention.

Our Vision: To create safe campus communities where all students can thrive.

Our Commitments: Our mission is operationalized through four commitments: Outreach, Research, Resources, and Education.



Outreach: WITH US is committed to fostering national movements of Upstander behavior through collaboration with other leading prevention organizations to produce new research and evidence-based programs for colleges and universities across the U.S.

Research: WITH US is committed to conducting and supporting quality research on college student bystander intervention behavior, attitudes, motivators and barriers to helping. WITH US is also committed to developing and testing theory-and-research based programs and public health communications designed to foster students' bystander intervention.

Resources: WITH US is committed to curating, vetting, and sharing existing evidence-based programs and resources to support educators and administrators responsible for developing and implementing prevention programming and improving campus safety. WITH US is also committed to developing tools to guide colleges and universities in the design of their own communications and programs tailored to their students and local contexts.

Education: WITH US is committed to providing research-informed-and-tested training and educational programs, tools, and materials to empower educators and students to shift apathetic peer cultures, inform institutional prevention and promotion related policies and initiatives, and cultivate communities of prosocial proactive bystanders (Upstanders).

WITH US is working to improve prosocial attitudes and bystander intervention behaviors among college students through the following initiatives:

- 1. National College Student Bystander Intervention Study**
- 2. Evidence-Based Bystander Intervention Toolkits & Resources**
- 3. The National Network for Peer Accountability**
- 4. National Awareness Campaigns**
- 5. Online Education & Train-the-Trainer Programs**

For more information:

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