

Vol. 2: Spring 2023 Newsletter



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Center for Violence
Prevention

UNI

University of
Northern Iowa™

The mission of the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention (PATCVP) is to build the capacity of institutions of higher education, K-12 schools, victim service agencies, law enforcement and the criminal justice system to systematically implement best practice violence prevention and evaluation strategies in collaboration with state, family and community partners.

In conjunction with its 10-year anniversary, UNI's Center for Violence Prevention was renamed the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention, in honor of the alumna's decades of work on behalf of survivors of abuse. Patricia, '86, and her husband, O. Jay Tomson, announced a \$2 million gift to the center in support of its mission to build the capacity of Iowa's schools, victim service agencies, law enforcement and other institutions to systematically implement best practices in bystander-based prevention education. The endowed gift will provide operational support as well as sustained funding for the Tomson Scholars Program, which since 2016 has funded student internships with violence prevention organizations and agencies providing direct services to survivors of abuse.

Our goal in sustaining our mission is by developing partnerships and collaborations with school, community, and state-wide partners to conduct sustainable bullying and gender violence prevention initiatives.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Alysa Mozak (she/ her) & Michael Fleming (he/him)

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We have had a great spring semester filled with new partnerships, trainings, conference speaking engagements, and more. We have also successfully ended a three-year grant in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Health and Human Services that served over 30 secondary schools in Iowa with violence prevention and mental health programming. We look forward to our continued growth with Iowa partners and in developing and evaluating the effectiveness of our programs and services. We thank all of our partners for their hard work and dedication to violence prevention!

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Thank you!

MVP: Mentors in Violence Prevention

One of our signature gender violence prevention programs is Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP). MVP is based on a peer leadership model that focuses on the role of the “bystander” to interrupt problem behaviors. The MVP model utilizes trained student leaders (MVP mentors) and supportive adults to guide discussions and problem-solving activities around scenarios that depict harassment, bullying and other forms of gender violence.

STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Grant (Department of Justice):

We continued to grow the MVP program in secondary schools across Iowa through the STOP grant, which is a grant funded by the Department of Justice in partnership with the PATCVP, the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. We would like to welcome newly trained STOP grant recipients from our last STOP cohort training in March 2023:

- **Charles City High School**
- **Burlington High School**
- **Ankeny Centennial High School**
- **Ankeny High School**



MVP: Mentors in Violence Prevention

STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Grant (Department of Justice) Culminating Event:

To celebrate the end of our 3-year STOP grant, we hosted a culminating event on March 7, 2023 in Ames that 12 schools participated in. Breakouts sessions included topics related to mental health, MVP program sustainability and mentoring skills development.

**Partnerships
in Motion:**
Sustaining STOP
Grant Program Efforts



Hampton-Dumont High School Healthy Relationship Presentations:

Hampton-Dumont High School in Hampton, IA invited PATCVP and Mason City's MVP team to co-facilitate healthy relationships lessons to all 9th and 10th graders in March.



MVP: Mentors in Violence Prevention

MVP TTT & Workshops at Iowa Colleges

PATCVP trained 18 new staff and students in the MVP model at Central College in January and offered 2 MVP workshops on consent reaching 20 students and staff at Grinnell College in April for their Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities.



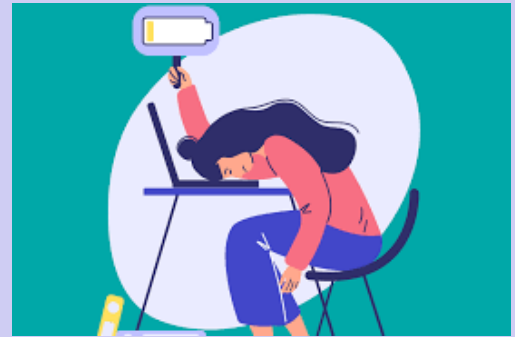
MVP Workshop

On Tuesday May 2nd, the PATCVP hosted a campus MVP workshop with modules on social norms, sexual harassment, consent and dating violence, and racial discrimination. Community partners from Riverview Center, Amani, and House of Hope attended, along with students from UNI's School of Education and Social Work program.



Ft Dodge Teacher Training

On January 4, the PATCVP had the opportunity to provide a training to 110 teachers from Ft Dodge High School about MVP implementation and reduction of burnout amongst staff and students. Learning goals included: how burnout relates to social emotional learning (SEL) levels and self-care needs as a teacher and the importance of the MVP SEL lessons in their classrooms related to the SEL needs of their students and themselves. The goal was to impact the delivery of MVP SEL lessons in a positive manner from the perspective of the teacher delivering and student receiving them.



UNI's Social & Emotional Learning Conference

On Friday April 7th, our director spoke at UNI College of Education's Social & Emotional Learning Conference on our center's new SEL curriculum MVP 2.0. The conference had over 250 participants from schools across Iowa.

UNI School of Education Student Teaching Program

The PATCVP continues to have a curriculum partnership with the School of Education's Student Teaching program. On April 11, we spoke to 35 student teachers about bullying prevention in Iowa and the MVP program.

ANKENY CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CJ Aldape-Sandmeyer is Ankeny Centennial High School's MVP Advisor. ACHS' MVP program currently has around 150 mentors. This was their first year of implementation and they facilitated lessons to 10th and 11th grade students in their combined advisory sections.



Tomson Scholars

Through a generous donation to the Patricia Tomson Center for Violence Prevention (PATCVP) from O. Jay and Patricia Tomson, the PATCVP offers financial support for eligible students in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences who are undertaking internships in agencies, non-profit organizations, associations, or government agencies that have a focus on interpersonal violence such as child maltreatment, sexual, domestic, and family violence.

Focus areas may include related policy development, partnership/coalition development, criminal justice issues, education etc.

We funded five UNI students this semester, granting \$ in funds to support these students.

Congratulations to our Spring 2023 Tomson Scholars:



Ieshia C.-MSW Program
Internship site: Hope Connection Counseling

Amanda Gantt-Psychology Major
Internship Site: Riverview Center

Daphne Alstott-Social Work Program
Internship site: Mercy One Patient and Family Services

Maddison Hofmann-Psychology Major
Internship site: Friends of the Family

Gideon Bawuah-WGS Program
Internship site: Friends of the Family

Tomson Scholars Reception

O. Jay and Patricia Tomson came to celebrate the accomplishments of our 2022-23 Tomson Scholarship recipients during their internships on April 20, 2023. Seven of our scholars spoke about what they learned in their internships and how the scholarship impacted them.

