The mission of the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention is to build the capacity of school districts, colleges and universities, and agencies serving youth and families to systematically implement, practice and evaluate effective bullying and violence prevention strategies.

WHO WE ARE

The Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention is named in honor of Patricia A. Tomson and her decades of work on behalf of survivors of abuse. Together with her husband, O. Jay Tomson, the couple granted a $2 million gift to the Center in 2021 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 provides 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 for survivors of abuse.

ALSTRA MOZAM, M.S., CHALE, is the director of the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention. In her role, she oversees all aspects of bystander education and strategies within pre-service teacher education and social sciences programming, as well as the implementation of Models in Violence Prevention (MVP) Strategies, training and outreach in and among Iowa’s higher education and Pre-K-12 educational systems. She is a co-lead of an extensive professional background as a victim advocate and violence prevention educator in both nonprofit and higher education.

WM. MICHAEL FLEMING, Ph.D., CFLE, is the director of research and assessment at the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention and an associate professor of family studies at UNI. His scholarship and teaching focuses on the dynamics associated with interpersonal violence; models of prevention and early intervention in secondary and higher education schools; and education and training of domestic/sexual assault educators and advocates. His community engagement includes serving on boards for domestic/sexual assault; serving on regional and statewide task forces and coalitions focusing on domestic/sexual assault, as well as working with non-profits providing program and evaluation consultation.
This year was a challenging, yet encouraging year for our center. We saw many positive impacts across the communities we serve but also faced setbacks to our collective prevention movement. I am grateful to have served our UNI campus community, our schools and community partners, and to continue to be part of the network of people around the state working to support violence prevention in Iowa. I look forward to partnering and exploring new and creative solutions to prevention to meet current and changing needs in Iowa.