

JUNE 2024



The Front Door to the Field

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING CAST EVENTS!

We are excited to announce **two upcoming events** at Zero Abuse Project, now open for registration. These events offer invaluable opportunities for professional development in child advocacy.

CAST Responsive Education & Training Engagement (CREATE) Train-the-Trainer

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT or
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM EDT

This event is for current CAST faculty. Participants will receive pre-recorded lectures to enhance their skills in delivering continuing education on child maltreatment. At the virtual event, faculty will be granted access to CREATE materials and will engage with subject matter experts to extend CAST's impact beyond traditional academic settings.

REGISTER NOW

2nd Annual CAST Seminar

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM EDT

This three-hour online event is designed for both institutions interested in implementing CAST and current CAST faculty seeking new resources. Attendees will gain access to a wealth of new grant-funded resources and insights to elevate the education of future frontline professionals in child protection and prevention.

REGISTER NOW

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

CAST Toolkits Available with More to Come!

As summer sessions approach, we want to remind CAST faculty of the invaluable resources available through Zero Abuse's three **Undergraduate CAST Toolkits**. These ready-to-deliver course materials are meticulously crafted to support the education of future mandated reporters and child-serving professionals. Whether you utilize the entire curriculum or select specific modules, the Toolkits offer flexibility to enhance your teaching strategy. Designed with both depth and adaptability in mind, they ensure that you have all the necessary materials for 8 weeks of instruction per course, preparing your students effectively for their critical role in keeping children safe.

We are also excited to announce that the **Graduate Law Toolkit** for legal programs of study is now available!

To learn more about accessing any of the Toolkits, please [schedule a conversation](#) with the CAST Team.

CAST Growth: 101 Programs Nationwide!

We are thrilled to celebrate a remarkable milestone: the CAST program has expanded to 101 programs across 30 states! This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to equipping future child welfare professionals with the skills necessary to effectively intervene in cases of child abuse and neglect. The rapid growth of CAST underscores its critical role in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and enhancing the preparedness of frontline professionals. As we continue to expand, we remain dedicated to safeguarding children and promoting trauma-informed, child-centered practices nationwide.

North Carolina the Newest CAST State - **UPDATED!**

[Davidson Davie Community College](#), alongside partners from [Stanly Community College](#), have worked diligently with the CAST Team to successfully navigate the approval of CAST for Human Services programs through the [North Carolina Community College State Board](#). Both institutions are working to deploy their CAST Certificate programming starting in fall 2024. Congratulations to all involved on this outstanding achievement!

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

Child Abuse Prevention and Identification Interdisciplinary Education Projects

In our ongoing efforts to enhance interdisciplinary education, Zero Abuse would like to highlight recent initiatives by the **National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI)**. NCWWI's Child Abuse Prevention and Identification Interdisciplinary Education Projects support undergraduate and graduate programs aiming to train professionals in preventing, identifying, and responding to child abuse. Two CAST organizations were represented in this project.

Specifically, the **University of South Dakota** and the **Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi** harnessed the power of CAST education to improve hiring and retention of a diverse workforce with knowledge and skills in understanding families and best practices surrounding the reduction and response to child abuse and neglect. Their efforts underscore the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in child welfare education and the demand for CAST education for child-serving professionals. Read more about these projects [here](#).

CAST Faculty Training at Shepherd University

As CAST programming expands nationally, faculty training becomes crucial for enhancing the quality of education that future child-serving professionals receive. Recognizing this, **Dr. Craig Cline** from **Shepherd University** initiated specialized training through Zero Abuse to optimize CAST instruction. In March 2024, Zero Abuse facilitated a half-day comprehensive virtual training for select faculty on the core undergraduate CAST courses. The training emphasized best practices in CAST instruction, project-based and experiential learning facilitation, mindfulness in education, and trauma-aware teaching. To equip your faculty with the knowledge and skills for effective CAST instruction, please [contact us](#) for more details on our available CAST Institutional Training options.

World Childhood Foundation Article Recognizes CAST

We are proud to share that the **World Childhood Foundation** has recognized the significant impact of Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) in their 2024 "**Out of the Shadows Index**" report. This report evaluates the efforts of various states to address child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) through a comprehensive framework of metrics. Highlighting the work of CAST, the report emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary education and training in combating CSEA.

Victor Vieth, Zero Abuse Chief Program Officer of Education and Research, was interviewed and acknowledged for his contributions to the field. To learn more, [read the full report here](#).

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

More Evidence of CAST Importance in New Publication: “Unto the Third Generation” Article Revisited

Chief Program Officer of Education and Research **Victor Vieth** and CAST Director **Tyler Council**, along with other Zero Abuse staff and expert colleagues, were recently published in the Journal of Child Sexual Abuse. This article, titled “**Unto the Third Generation**” Revisited: the Impact of a National Plan to End Child Abuse in the United States within Three Generations, emphasizes cultural sensitivity and diversity. It specifically addresses racial disproportionality and disparity, including issues such as racial disparities, LGBTQIA2S+ victims, male victims, and the impact of technology in response to child maltreatment.

“Unto the Third Generation” Revisited: the Impact of a National Plan to End Child Abuse in the United States within Three Generations

Victor Vieth^a, Theodore P. Cross^b, Robert Peters^c, Rachel Johnson^d, Tyler Council^e, Rita Farrell^f, Betsy Goulet^g, and Karla Steckler Tye^h

^aChief Program Officer for Education & Research, Zero Abuse Project; ^bSenior Research Specialist and Professor, University of Illinois; ^cDirector of Institutional Response, GRACE; ^dLead Forensic Interview Specialist, Zero Abuse Project; ^eDirector, Child Advocacy Studies, Zero Abuse Project; ^fSenior Director, Zero Abuse Project; ^gSchool of Public Management & Policy, University of Illinois-Springfield; ^hExecutive Director, Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi

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There is a prophet within us, forever whispering that behind the seen lies the immeasurable unseen.

—Frederick Douglass¹

CLICK HERE



We Want to Hear from YOU!

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.

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

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!

