Mentors in Violence Prevention: An effective bystander intervention strategy

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Bio:
Dr Shannon Spriggs has spent the last seven years with MVP delivering and developing training across the U.S., in Brisbane, Australia, and around the world. She is currently a Research Fellow with the Violence Research and Prevention program at Griffith University in Brisbane Australia. Since 2010, she has worked to adapt the MVP curriculum for use in Australia and introduce a pilot program. From 2006-2010 she was the Assistant Director for the MVP National program in the U.S. In that role, she was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the program and coordinated 40 training visits per year, overseeing every aspect from grant management, scheduling and client contact to travel logistics and preparation of materials. Shannon also managed the roster of 30 active training consultants.

Dr. Spriggs facilitated over 600 training sessions with over 15,000 participants in four years with MVP National. She also has significant experience developing trainers in the MVP curriculum. She has facilitated dozens of Train-the-Trainer programs, including work as a consultant with the U.S. Military. In 2009, she was part of a select team that spent two weeks in Iraq conducting trainings for service members currently in theatre. She is also responsible for organizing and updating staff training manuals, co-facilitating training camps for staff development, acting as the lead trainer in various training situations and providing feedback for the growth of junior trainers.

Shannon received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration with Student Development focus from Boston College in 2007.

Abstract:
The Mentors in Violence Prevention (‘MVP’) program is a leadership program focused on the prevention of all forms of violence. The interactive, discussion-based program views all people as bystanders who can be empowered to prevent, confront or interrupt violent situations involving their peers. MVP encourages all individuals to take responsibility for being part of the solution and seeks to engage young people in the process by increasing their knowledge about violence issues and developing their skills and confidence to intervene in effective ways. MVP believes the more options a person has available to them, the less likely he or she is to choose violence or do nothing. MVP has been conducting training in the United States since 1993, and has been evaluated as an effective primary prevention program. Since its inception, the MVP model has been used to train thousands of high school and university students, professional athletes, military service members, educators and social service providers in the United States with significant success. MVP was adapted and introduced in Australia in 2010.