

19th Annual Safe Schools Initiative Seminar Speakers

CARLY POSEY

Carly Posey is a national speaker and advocate for school safety. Two of her four children were inside Sandy Hook Elementary School when an armed man entered the building on December 14, 2012. The shooter made his way to her son's first grade classroom, killing his teacher and a classmate. When he stopped to re-load, her son escaped, running to a nearby fire station. Her daughter, who remained hidden inside an art room office, also survived, but the lessons learned were significant. Carly's other two children were at the intermediate school in Newtown where they were in lockdown the entire school day. The lack of preparedness within the community to respond and recover to such an incident left a lasting impression.

Today, as Mission Director for the "I Love U Guys" Foundation, Carly travels the country sharing her story to promote school safety and preparedness. Her experiences as a parent and a community member provide a compelling, often heartbreaking, case study for the need to prepare for the unthinkable. Carly has previously served as the Executive Director for the Safe2Tell Nonprofit and as Program Director for Anderson Software. She now lives in Colorado with her husband, Dave, and their four children.

DAN RECTOR

Dan Rector is an emergency management professional with over 15 years of experience in homeland security and emergency management operations. He is a military veteran with 12 years of active duty experience. He served as a Damage Control Petty Officer in the U.S Coast Guard and as a Survey Team Chief on a National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. Dan has worked as a contractor for both military and private sector clients designing exercises and conducting training. He has extensive experience conducting threat identification, hazard analysis, training program development, and exercise design/evaluation.

He is a graduate of training programs from the Defense Nuclear Weapons School, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the U.S. Army's Chemical/Biological Weapons Center, and the Idaho National Laboratory. Dan has also completed both the FEMA Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) course and the Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) course. He is currently enrolled in the FEMA Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP). He is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM). Additionally, Dan is a licensed HAZMAT Technician, Confined Space Rescue Technician I/II, and EMT-B. He is the recipient of multiple awards for excellence.

JACLYN SCHILDKRAUT, PhD

Jaclyn Schildkraut, PhD, is the Executive Director of the Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium at the Rockefeller Institute of Government. A leading scholar on school and mass shootings in the United States, her research focuses on crime statistics, media representations, security and prevention, legislative responses, and other important considerations that impact individuals and communities struck by these tragedies. Her research has been cited by the news media locally, nationally, and even internationally. She prides herself on providing an honest and genuine account of these events and their impacts, and is grateful for the opportunity to work with communities impacted by these events, including working with individuals from Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, and others. A former resident of Orlando and the Parkland area, each of which has experienced its own mass shooting (Pulse Nightclub, 2016 and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, 2018), Jaclyn is committed to helping change the narrative about these events and encouraging a proactive approach to safety and prevention.

Dr. Schildkraut is the author/co-author of six books, including [Lockdown Drills: Connecting Research and Best Practices for Schools Administrators, Teachers and Parents](#) (2022, MIT Press) which she co-authored with **Amanda Nickerson**. She has published over 50 journal articles, book chapters and other literary pieces, and is a nationally recognized speaker.

AMANDA NICKERSON, PhD, NCSP

Amanda Nickerson, PhD, NCSP, is a Professor and Director of the [Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention](#) at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. Dr. Nickerson's research focuses on school crisis prevention and intervention, with a particular emphasis on violence and bullying. She has examined the role of schools, parents, and peers in preventing violence and enhancing the social-emotional strengths of children and adolescents. A licensed psychologist in New York state and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist, Dr. Nickerson is committed to the scientist-practitioner model of training. She views research and science as foundational to good practice, and helps practitioners use this knowledge to guide practice. Amanda has conducted hundreds of presentations for educators and mental health professionals in the United States and other countries. She has also worked in close collaboration with schools and other child-serving agencies to guide them in using data to inform practice, particularly related to improving social-emotional and behavioral functioning and preventing bullying and violence.

Dr. Nickerson is the author/co-author of three books, including [Lockdown Drills: Connecting Research and Best Practices for Schools Administrators, Teachers and Parents](#) (2022, MIT Press), which she co-authored with **Jaclyn Schildkraut**. She has published over 95 journal articles, book chapters and other literary pieces.