



National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA)
2026 Campus Advocacy Training
Instructor Biographies

Instructor: Arely Hernandez
Session: Introduction to Campus Advocacy



Arely Z. Hernandez (she/her/ella) is the Associate Director of Campus Program for the National Organization of Victim Advocacy (NOVA). Arely has over 12 years of experience working within higher education institutions, specializing in violence prevention and intervention programs, laws, and policies around sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Arely has served as campus-based advocate and utilizes trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and inclusive practices to create spaces that prioritize safety, trust, and empowerment. Arely is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from The

University of Texas at El Paso. Outside of work, she enjoys watching movies or streaming shows, sipping a delicious cup of coffee, and traveling with her family.



Catherine Thompson serves as a Credentialing Specialist with the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D-SAACP) team and a Training Coordinator with NOVA's Technical and Training Assistance Campus Program. She graduated cum laude from Furman University with a Bachelor's in Sociology and a minor in Environmental Studies. Catherine supports campus-based professionals through outreach and coordination for NCAT. Her expertise also includes developing standardized resources

to improve program consistency and providing training to new staff for NOVA's Help Desk.

Instructor: Elithet Silva Martinez
Session: Trauma, Resiliency, & Trauma-Informed Advocacy



Dr. Elithet Silva Martínez is currently an Associate Professor and Interim Director at the Beatriz Lassalle Graduate School of Social Work of the University of Puerto Rico. Her most recent studies include ethnographic methodologies and narratives with survivors of gender-based violence as well as immigrant women. Her passion for supporting survivors of gender-based violence prompted her to co-found the SIEMPRE VIVAS Metro organization together with students at the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras, which focuses on service and research on gender-based violence, as well as individual and group support to survivors of violence and prevention work with children and youth. Certified in Traumatic Stress, Dr. Silva-Martínez also serves as an educator to professionals from different areas on informed interventions in trauma and collaborating with survivors of violence.

Instructor: Betty Smith
Session: Understanding & Implementing Language Justice (asynchronous, pre-recorded session)



Betty Smith (she/her/ella), born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Puerto Rico and Ohio, holds a Bachelor's in Social Science from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio. With nearly ten years of experience in advocacy, she has focused on sexual assault, domestic violence awareness, and victim/survivor support, specializing in project coordination, case management, and culturally specific services. Betty has worked with organizations to bridge language and cultural gaps, ensuring messages are clear, relevant, and culturally appropriate for diverse Spanish-speaking audiences. Her approach combines evidence-based practices with a deep commitment to social justice, particularly in the areas of gender-based violence and victims' rights.

Sexual Violence Recognition and Response: on College Campuses



Jen Brockman is the Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center at the University of Kansas. She has worked in the field of victim advocacy and gender-based violence prevention since 2001, in three different states at community programs, flagship institutes, and state coalitions. During her career Jen worked as the Sex Crimes Investigation Trainer for the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault and is a certified Law Enforcement Trainer in Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence. Jen is the recipient of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Visionary Voice Award and the Arkansas Attorney General's Crime Victim Advocate of the Year Award. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Drury University in Criminology and Sociology and a Masters of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University.

Ethics, Boundaries, and Confidentiality in Campus Advocacy



Dr. Thomas started her career as a community advocate and organizer supporting survivors of power-based violence and their families in Georgia. During her time working in the community, she also worked as a Health Educator where she created and provided educational programs and initiatives on topics such as sexual assault, interpersonal violence, healthy relationships, and sexual health. She went on to create an advocacy office at the George Washington University (GWU) where she worked alongside the community to identify and reimagine healing and justice. She continues her work in developing and leading racial equity policies, trainings, and initiatives in higher education. Dr. Thomas holds a Doctor of Education from the George Washington University where her research focuses on the healing experiences of Black college women. She is an Intercultural Development Inventory® (IDI®) and also a certified leadership coach who focuses on helping organizations become less reactive and more intentional and trauma informed in their crisis response.



Olivia Blythe (they/she) is an abolitionist intersectional feminist dedicated to supporting individuals impacted by acute and historical trauma, interpersonal violence, and state-sanctioned harm. With a focus on community-centered advocacy, Olivia empowers survivors to reclaim safety, autonomy, and connection after experiencing trauma. As a forensic social worker with The Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Practice and a psychotherapist and sex therapist at Wise Therapy in Brooklyn, Olivia integrates trauma-informed, relational, and somatic approaches to help clients navigate healing, intimacy, and identity. Their therapeutic work centers on trauma recovery, relationship dynamics, and embodied empowerment, blending empathy with a direct, goal-oriented style to foster meaningful change. Olivia brings compassion, curiosity, and a deep commitment to decarceral, survivor-centered healing, infused with the warmth and humor that make even the hardest conversations feel human.

Considerations for Serving Historically Marginalized Communities in Campus Advocacy



Aysia Evans-Kidd, M.Ed. (She/Her) is the Culturally Specific Program Manager for the National Organization of Victim Advocacy (NOVA). In this role, Aysia works with campus communities to strategize ways to effectively support marginalized student survivors of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As a former campus victim advocate, Aysia values racial justice and the decolonization of trauma-informed approaches. As a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Aysia has a passion for social justice and community conscious initiatives to support equity and multicultural support within sexual violence response and higher education. Aysia's work is rooted in Critical Race Theory, Black Feminist Theory, and Racial Identity Development. In supporting campus victim advocates and practitioners, she focuses on ensuring that advocates empower survivors of sexual violence and dismantle white supremacist undertones of violence response work. She utilizes her passion for racial justice and bias disruption to guide her in supporting advocates and victims in their experiences.

Intimate Partner Violence & Stalking on College Campuses



Kendra Eggleston (M.A.) is the Training & Campus Specialist for the Stalking, Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC). In her role, Kendra specializes in working with colleges and universities to develop effective campus stalking resources. Kendra designs and delivers dynamic trainings to equip students, staff, and faculty with tools to recognize and respond to the unique dynamics of campus stalking and advocate for victims and survivors on campuses. Kendra has a longstanding passion for advocacy in higher education, serving in student advocacy programs including sexual and relationship violence prevention programs, LGBTQ+ programs, campus food pantries, emergency assistance programs, and student accessibility services. She is currently a doctoral candidate pursuing a Doctor of Education in Learning and Organizational Change, with a goal of enhancing her knowledge and skills to create significant and lasting change in the movement to end relationship violence, sexual violence, and stalking.

Campus Safety Planning: Supportive Measures, Schedule Mapping, and No Contact Orders



Lindy Aldrich, Esq. is the founder of Ladder Consulting. She is a national expert in Title IX and how student survivors of sexual assault interact with reporting systems. She founded Ladder Consulting to use her experience to help schools and employers better their systemic response to gender-based violence. Her work included policy creation, identifying on-campus, at-risk populations, communicating response systems and ensuring trauma-informed procedures. In February 2014, Lindy was invited by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault to lend her expertise on Title IX and victim confidentiality. She is an Office of Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance trainer on education issues and has provided dozens of independent trainings with private, public, rural, urban, faith-based and historically black colleges and universities throughout the country.

Protecting Campus Survivors' Information



Shannon Masden, *Assistant Director of Training and Consultation, Victim Rights Law Center Pronouns: she/her/hers*

Shannon Masden has a background in social work, community organizing, civil rights policy implementation, and trauma-informed violence prevention & response work. Prior to working at VRLC, she worked on multiple college campuses overseeing campus-wide responses to identity-based discrimination and harassment with particular focus on gender-based harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and disability-based harm. Her work included policy development and implementation, conducting and overseeing investigations, hearing oversight, alternative resolution procedures, restorative justice, and implementing state and federal regulations. She has worked directly with trauma survivors in a variety of settings from domestic violence shelters to criminal courtrooms, as well as individual and family counseling. She currently offers technical assistance and training to colleges and universities across the country through the Office of Violence Against Women Campus Grant Program.



Carol Schrader, she/her, Senior Attorney, Victim Rights Law Center.

Carol helps OVW-funded attorneys and other victim service providers across the country provide legal advocacy for and protect the confidentiality of survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. Carol has advocated for survivors of gender-based violence throughout her career including as a legal aid attorney, executive director of a nonprofit working to end domestic violence and sexual assault, manager of the Oregon DOJ Crime Victims' Rights Compliance Project, National Crime Victim Law Institute attorney, and as a U.S. Antarctica Program confidential victim advocate. Her community-care includes hiking with friends and enjoying her book group.

Forensic Exams, Protocols, & Campus Advocacy



Juliette Grimmett, MPH, has over 25 years of professional experience creating and implementing gender-based violence prevention and response programs for colleges and universities, schools, and the community. Some of Juliette's most recent work includes serving as the Consulting Producer of the documentary film MY MASCULINITY HELPS, as the CORE Constructs Consulting Developer for NASPA's Culture of Respect, and as the co-PI for a research study on sexual violence prevention and response programs on women's campuses. In addition to consulting, she serves as the Sexual Assault Victim Policy Strategist for the NC

Department of Justice as part of the DOJ-funded Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant. She currently serves as an invited member of the North Carolina Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Council through the Department of Health & Human Services and the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault; the CDC funded leadership team out of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and on the Board of Volunteers for St. Mary's School where she provides over 25 trainings per year to all 9-12th graders as well as faculty and staff.

Kelly Taylor

Serving Disabled Student-Survivors



Zoe Collins (she, her, hers) is the founder of Spiramind, an anti-ableist neurodivergent consulting firm focused on empowering people to provide high quality and accessible services to the neurodivergent community. She is a disabled/chronically ill, autistic, white, queer survivor from Aurora, Colorado. Each of her identities has vastly shaped how she approaches advocacy and education. She has facilitated workshops for a range of audiences spanning from local survivor services organizations, to federal government agencies, to international conferences on a variety of subjects including abuse, ableism, advocacy for disabled survivors, neurodiversity, and accessibility. She was honored to receive the “Excellence in Advocacy Award” from the Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center in 2021 for her work on cases involving ableism within the criminal justice system.

Title IX and Campus Adjudication



Cari Simon is one of the Nation's Top Title IX Attorneys representing survivors of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and sexual harassment in University and K–12 settings nationwide. Ms. Simon has been credited with the inclusion of stalking and dating violence in the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, and her impact litigation ensured universities are responsible under Title IX for sexual violence at fraternity houses. Widely regarded as a Gender Violence Policy Expert, Ms. Simon directed the United States Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus, advises gender-based violence legislative efforts in numerous states, and was appointed to the Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee by the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

The Clery Act



Simone Dixon is the Assistant Director of Programs – Campus Grant. Prior to joining Clery Center, Simone served as the Office on Violence Against Women Campus Program grant director at University of Michigan-Dearborn. She brings with her nearly a decade of experience in Higher Education in Grant Management, Prevention Education and Teaching with a focus on Misogynoir and Sexual and Gender-based violence against Black Women and girls. Simone is a proud First-Gen student who received her M.A. and B.S. in Women's and Gender Studies from Eastern Michigan University.

Restorative Justice in Advocacy



Dr. Rachel King is a restorative justice practitioner specializing in issues of harassment and sexual misconduct in higher education. She has extensive experience facilitating restorative justice conferences in community and school-based programs and has held a number of roles in college administration, including Associate Dean of Students, Director of Community Standards and Conflict Resolution, and Title IX Coordinator. Rachel provides training to schools around the country on how to take a restorative approach to cases of sexual misconduct through the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women campus grant program.



Jay K. Wilgus, J.D., M.D.R., is a lawyer, mediator, educator, consultant, and facilitator specializing in multi-party dispute resolution processes and dispute resolution systems design. Wilgus is a national leader in the field of student conduct and conflict management who is regularly called upon to assist postsecondary institutions, federal agencies, academics, and others seeking to improve institutional responses to student conduct, student conflict, and sexual misconduct. He currently serves as Vice President for the Maine Association of Mediators, Co-Chair of the Braver Angels Alliance of New England, and Group Leader for a community of practice affiliated with the Center for Restorative Justice at the University of San Diego. He is licensed to practice law in the State of Utah.

Understanding & Developing Effective Prevention Initiatives



Jose L. Carval is a prevention strategist, educator, and consultant with over a decade of experience developing trauma-informed training and professional development programs. He has supported colleges, nonprofits, community-based organizations, and government agencies across the country in strengthening how they serve individuals and families — with a focus on connection, compassion, and long-term impact. When he's not working, you'll likely find him outdoors with his husband and two dogs, rooting for the Yankees, or catching up on the latest reality shows.