

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT WOMEN'S CENTER 14TH ANNUAL

DISMANTLING RAPE CULTURE CONFERENCE

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM

**THE TIME FOR
RADICAL LIBERATION
— IS NOW —**

Rev. angel Kyodo williams, Sensei



The University of Vermont

Women's Center
34 South Williams Street
Burlington, VT 05401-3404
802-656-7892

11 April 2019

Dear Colleagues and Collaborators,

Welcome to the University of Vermont Women's Center's 14th Annual Dismantling Rape Culture Conference. We are excited about the opportunity to bring together the ideas and passions of so many students, staff, activists, advocates, scholars, and community members to consider the ways justice and liberation our bound to one another and to our shared healing.

The UVM Women's Center is committed to ending violence by focusing on intersectional approaches to community building, prevention and awareness, and support and resources for those who experience violence on our campus and in our communities. Our partners in the Division of Human Resources, Diversity, and Multicultural Affairs, including the Mosaic Center for Students of Color, Interfaith Center, and Prism Center for Queer and Trans Students, alongside the work of our colleagues in Living Well and the Center for Health and Wellbeing here at UVM, exemplify the ways that creating community and seeking justice in all things help to manifest the joyfully connected world we envision. The enormity of the task to dismantle systems of oppression and harm is our shared work and necessitates collective organizing and shared liberation. We are grateful to the higher education community in our county and across the state that seeks these same goals, and especially to our local colleagues at Champlain College's Women's and Gender Center and Saint Michael's College's Center for Women and Gender.

Thank you for joining us today as we work to analyze, explore, create, support, and demonstrate solidarity with survivors of violence and oppression. The conference planning committee hopes that you will leave with some new tools, some new perspectives, and some strategies for building the future we all deserve. Please let a committee member know if you need any assistance and thank you again for sharing this space and creating change.

In solidarity,

University of Vermont Women's Center Staff

Melissa Murray
Catarina Campbell
Adriana Conners
Judy Rickstad
Sarah Mell

Dismantling Rape Culture Conference 2019 Planning Committee

Laura Aguilera
Maddie Braz
David Waller

Vivianna Alvarez
Gabriella Elmoussaoui
Allie Walling

Jennifer Archambault
Daniel Tovar

The Dismantling Rape Culture Conference is sponsored by...

The UVM Women's Center

This year's Keynote Address was brought to us through a collaboration with multiple UVM and community partners. We would especially like to share our gratitude with **Lindsay Foreman, UVM Mindfulness Coordinator**, for drawing the explicit connection between Rev. angel's work in mindfulness and justice with the mission of the Dismantling Rape Culture Conference. We also are grateful for the collaboration with the Center for Health and Wellbeing, Sustainability House, and Mosaic Center for Students of Color and hope that the community will find multiple ways with which to engage with Rev. angel during her visit to UVM.

A Special Thanks to the...

The Dismantling Rape Culture 2019 Conference Planning Committee

Laura Aguilera (she/her, they/them)

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UVM PRISM Center

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Coordinator for Underrepresented
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Mosaic Center for Students of Color

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Service Officer
UVM Department of Police Services

Allison Walling (she/her)

MSW Graduate Student
UVM Women's Center, Intern

Division of Human Resources, Diversity, and Multicultural Affairs

We would like to recognize the leadership of Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity, and Multicultural Affairs for her guidance, support, and work on campus to create a safe and thriving learning environment for all members of our community. We have additional gratitude for all of our colleagues in the Division for the ways they foster active engagement in the movement to end violence on our campus and in our communities.

We Couldn't Have Done It Without

The incredible marketing and design brilliance of **Jennifer Archambault** who created our outreach media for the conference.

Our wonderful partners in **Living Well and the Center for Health and Wellbeing, Davis Center Staff, Catering Services, Purchasing Services, Conference & Event Services, Transportation and Parking Services**, and the **Print and Mail Center**. Especially, **Brian Wichert** for his kind guidance and support!

This Conference is a collaborative effort that continues to thrive only through the efforts of dedicated staff, students, faculty, community members, volunteers, and community partners. We are indebted to the legacy begun fourteen years ago by the originators of the Dismantling Rape Culture Conference and feel immense gratitude to all those who came before and will carry this Conference into its future incarnations.

Room to Breathe - Summit Room, 4th Floor Davis Center off the Grand Maple Ballroom

Conference participants may step away from the sessions and utilize the quiet space at any point throughout the day. A volunteer will be in the room to assist participants as needed. An advocate will also be on call all day and will be available to talk in person and on the phone. If at any time a conference participant would like to speak to the advocate, the volunteer in the Room to Breathe will initiate contact with the advocate. Contact information for local agencies in Burlington can be found in the Summit Room.

SafeSpace Anti-Violence (for LGBTQ+ survivors of violence)	802.863.0003
H.O.P.E Works	802.863.1236
Steps to End Domestic Violence	802.658.1996

Glossary of Terms

Affinity Space

An affinity space is a safe place where people who share a common identity come together. Examples include: spaces for people of color, spaces for queer folk, and spaces for women-identified individuals.

Gender Pronouns

Pronouns used to identify someone in place of their name. Examples include: they/them/theirs, she/her/hers, he/him/his.

Intersectionality

An academic and feminist term coined by the advocate and scholar Kimberle Crenshaw originally used in reference to the particular ways identities of race, gender, and class converge to create very different lived experiences for women of different races and class backgrounds. It is now a fairly widely accepted term used to describe the incredibly complex ways multiple social identities interact with one another and make for lived experiences that are difficult to generalize across a single identity (i.e. believing that “all women” have a similar/some experience based on having the identity of “woman” in common).

Oppression (in the context of social systems and identities)

A term describing a relationship between categories of people in which one category or identity group (in particular on the basis of gender, race, ability, language, religion, class, sexuality, age, etc.) is benefitting from the abuse, control, exploitation, and injustice directed at the other.

[adapted from: <https://www.thoughtco.com/socail-oppression-3026593>]

Privilege

A right, advantage, or immunity granted to an individual of particular group of people (oftentimes used in reference to a group of people unified by a particular identity, i.e. white people being the recipients of white privilege).

Rape Culture

Rape culture is a culture in which rape and sexual violence are pervasive. Rape culture exists when prevalent attitudes, norms, practices and media condone, normalize, excuse and encourage sexual violence. Rape culture is deeply connected to a complex web of violent cultural systems, among them misogyny/patriarchy, racism and white supremacy, colonialism, ableism, queer & transphobia, classism, etc.

Sexual Violence

An umbrella term that includes but is not limited to: rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, forced sterilization, voyeurism, etc.

Trigger Warnings (also known as “content warnings”)

A note or warning given at the beginning of a class, presentation, piece of media, etc., that notifies the reader/consumer/student of material that could be likely to generate a strong emotional responses, particularly as a result of trauma related to the subject material. Examples of content someone might include a trigger warning for are: mentions of sexual violence, mentions of racist violence, symptoms of mental illness, etc.

Thursday, April 11, 2019 Day-At-A-Glance

Time	Event/Topic/Speaker	Room
7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Registration	4 th Floor Davis Center Livak Fireplace Lounge
8:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.	Welcome	Grand Maple Ballroom
8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	4 th Floor Davis Center
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch	Grand Maple Ballroom
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Keynote Address	Grand Maple Ballroom
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	4 th Floor Davis Center
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Grand Maple Ballroom
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Community & Campus. Resource Tables	4 th Floor Davis Center Livak Fireplace Lounge
8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Room to Breathe: Tarot, Art, & Self Care	Summit Room

*DESIGNATES AFFINITY SPACE PLEASE READ WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Session I
The Military's Response to Sexual Trauma Presented by: Scott Detweiler and Christina Lazelle	Williams Family Room
*(de/re)Constructing Transmasculinities: A Community Conversation on the Patriarchy, Rape Culture, and Cisheteronormativity Presented by: Benjamin C. Kennedy, M.Ed.	Boulder Society Room AFFINITY SPACE FOR FOLKS WHO IDENTIFY AS TRANSMASCULINE
Stories of Connection and Joy: Growing our Movement by Centering Positive Narratives Against Rape Culture Presented by: Jordan Allen-Brandon, Alisa Del Tufo, Chani Waterhouse, and Natanya Vanderlaan	Jost Foundation Room
Chutes and Ladders: Toxic Masculinity Edition Presented by: Monique Gardon and Kayla Schneider	Chittenden Bank Room
Sexual Assault Trauma and Neuroscience Research: Present Critiques and Future Directions Presented by: Rory Decker	Handy Family Room
Transforming Our Approaches to Anti-Violence Work: An Informal Discussion on Challenges & New Possibilities Presented by: Willow Stein and Skylar Wolfe	Mildred Livak Ballroom
Virginity's Relationship with Rape Culture Presented by: Jenna Emerson	Frank Livak Ballroom

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Session II	
Feminist Archetypes in Response to Patriarchal Culture: Myths of Resistance & Female Empowerment Presented by: Rita Munro, MA	Williams Family Room
Invisible Boys: The Neglected Victims of Sexual Abuse Presented by: Glenn Herring	Spruce Room
*The Complexity of POC Bodies: Exploring Rape, Trauma and Sexuality through Poetry Presented by: Keiba Bragg-Best, MS, NCC, Veronica F. Jacobs, and Daniel Tovar	Boulder Society Room AFFINITY SPACE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR
Pizza Planet: Practicing New Metaphors for Consent that Center People and Pleasure Presented by: Phoebe Rotter	Jost Foundation Room
*Navigating Hookup Culture as a Survivor Presented by: Linnea Johnson	Chittenden Bank Room AFFINITY SPACE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
Human Trafficking and Rape Culture: Understanding How Trafficking Shows Up Presented by: Nina Carr, Isabel Fetter, Mikayla Humiston, Callie Kotzan, and Theresa Noonan	Handy Family Room
Violence in the Anti-Violence Workplace Presented by: Lucy Basa and jas wheeler	Mildred Livak Ballroom
Vermont Youth Seeking Askable Adults: What Are They and How Can I be One? Presented by: Sophia Papka, Savannah Williams, and Laura Young	Frank Livak Ballroom
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session III	
That's How They Do it in the Movies: From 'Baby It's Cold Outside' to Real Love Presented by: Julia Swift	Williams Family Room
Defining Your Boundaries Presented by: Jennilee Stocker	Spruce Room
*LGBTQ+ Anxieties and Strengths: How do We Thrive Under the Cis-Straight Gaze? Presented by: Nathan Karas	Boulder Society Room AFFINITY SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ FOLKS
ASK Us About Consent Presented by: PPNNE Peer Educators Facilitated by: Andrea Nicoletta	Jost Foundation Room
A is Not For Ally: Affirming Asexual College Student Narratives Presented by: Catherine Meyer	Chittenden Bank Room
Taking Off The Masc: An X-Man's Journey Navigating Toxic Masculinity and Rape Culture Presented by: David Waller	Handy Family Room
Surviving Higher Ed. as a Survivor Presented by: Jennifer Clarke	Mildred Livak Ballroom
Brainspotting: An Effective Healing Therapy for Survivors and Those Who Serve Them Presented by: Katherine Allen, MA, LMFT	Frank Livak Ballroom
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. LUNCH	Grand Maple Ballroom

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Keynote Address

Grand Maple Ballroom

Rev. angel Kyodo williams, Sensei

The Time for Radical Liberation is Now

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Session IV

Ecstatic Dance for Healing Presented by: Marla Goldstein (Note: Movement-based session; please wear comfortable clothing)	Grand Maple Ballroom
*Queer Resilience: A Space for Honoring Nonlinear Healing Presented by: Laura Aguilera	Boulder Society Room AFFINITY SPACE FOR QUEER & TRANS PEOPLE OF COLOR
Gender Discrimination as Rape Culture in the Workplace: What Can You Do? Presented by: Kimberly Ead and Ana-Cristina Medal	Jost Foundation Room
Is it Always Belle and the Beast? Displaced Narratives of Trans and Non-binary Folx Presented by: Tahn	Chittenden Bank Room
A Christian Perspective that Counteracts Rape Culture Presented by: Rev. Ann Larson	Handy Family Room
Are You Really Trauma-Informed? Examining Practices that Truly Meet Survivors Where They Are Presented by: Brittany Haskins, Lindsay Martin, MSW, and Kristine Reynolds, MSW, LICSW	Mildred Livak Ballroom
Healing as an Act of Justice: A Follow-Up Conversation with Rev. angel Kyodo williams	Frank Livak Ballroom

4:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Grand Maple Ballroom

Keynote Speaker

Rev. angel Kyodo williams, Sensei

Called "the most intriguing African-American Buddhist" by Library Journal, angel Kyodo williams is an author, activist, master trainer and founder of Transformative Change. She has been bridging the worlds of transformation and justice since her critically acclaimed book, *Being Black: Zen and the Art of Living With Fearlessness and Grace* was hailed as "an act of love" by Pulitzer Prize winner Alice Walker, and "a classic" by Buddhist pioneer Jack Kornfield. Her newest work, *Radical Dharma: Talking Race, Love & Liberation*, is igniting communities to have the long overdue conversations necessary to become more awake and aware of what hinders liberation of self and society.

Rev. angel was the second black woman to become a Zen "Sensei" or teacher, and applies wisdom teachings and embodied practice to intractable social issues.

She is a leading voice for Transformative Social Change, and in recognition of her work, she received the first Creating Enlightened Society Award from Shambhala International.

Her work has been widely covered, including in *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Ms.*, and *Essence*.

angel notes, "Love and Justice are not two. Without inner change, there can be no outer change. Without collective change, no change matters." She was made for these times.

Session I - 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

TAROT, ART & SELF-CARE ALL DAY IN THE ROOM TO BREATHE – SUMMIT ROOM

Chutes and Ladders: Toxic Masculinity Edition

Monique Gardon and Kayla Schneider

Utilizing the game of 'Chutes and Ladders' as both metaphor and actual play, participants in this session will gain a working understanding of the term "toxic masculinity". Presenters will ask folks to identify instances in their life where they have either experienced or witnessed toxic masculinity in action and reflect upon their responses in that moment. In both small group connection, and large group synthesis, these instances will be analyzed and alternative responses created.

***(de/re)Constructing Transmasculinities: A Community Conversation on the Patriarchy, Rape Culture, and Cisheteronormativity**

Benjamin C. Kennedy, M.Ed.

AFFINITY SPACE FOR FOLKS WHO IDENTIFY AS TRANSMASCULINE

This is an affinity space for folks who identify as transmasculine that aims to create space for conversations around masculinity broadly – including the ways in which we learn and create masculinities, how ideas about gender roles and identity shift throughout transition, and our victimization within and perpetuation of rape culture and the patriarchy. With guided facilitation, participants can expect an open, engaging conversation about the ways in which transmasculine folks experience and express masculinity.

The Military's Response to Sexual Trauma

Scott Detweiler and Christina Lazelle

This session details how the Military, and the Vermont National Guard specifically, has implemented prevention, awareness and response initiatives over the last 9 years since program inception. A large part of the military's program has been focused on uplifting pro-social behavior and values through evidenced based education, leadership emphasis and awareness events. We will explore innovative methods the Vermont National Guard is implementing to measure the effectiveness of targeted prevention programs over time.

Sexual Assault Trauma and Neuroscience Research: Present Critiques and Future Directions

Rory Decker

Sexual assault trauma can manifest in different ways based on the intersections of identities and the context of the assault. Neuroscience research can help people better understand these manifestations, but has historically left notions of Intersectionality out of the conversation. Accessible to non-STEM people/non-academics, and discussing the social implications of the research, the presenter will share her own research and that of experts in the field with the intention of demonstrating the ways in which the intersections of oppressed identities have historically been ignored by the research and need to be further examined in order to better understand the neurological impacts of trauma.

Stories of Connection and Joy: Growing our Movement by Centering Positive Narratives Against Rape Culture

Jordan Allen-Brandon, Alisa Del Tufo, Natanya Vanderlaan, and Chani Waterhouse

What are your best days made of? Whom do you deeply admire and why? Why are your friends, family or community important to you? And how do these questions connect to anti-rape activism? Students from Montpelier High School spent two days exploring these and other questions, and creating beguiling digital narrative pieces that offer some answers. In this session, students will share their digital stories and engage participants in discussion around the potential power of narratives of healing, joy and connectedness in our movement to transform rape culture.

Transforming Our Approaches to Anti-Violence Work: An Informal Discussion on Challenges & New Possibilities

Willow Stein and Skylar Wolfe

This session will be an informal and interactive space for people to talk about different approaches to anti-violence work. There is no "right" answer for this session, but there are options with a variety of potential pros and cons. Different models that will be discussed include: survivor centric approaches, the transformative justice model, restorative justice, calling out versus calling in, and more. What is your approach? What is your approach? Who is centered, and who may be being forgotten?

Virginity's Relationship with Rape Culture

Jenna Emerson

This workshop will take a sociological look at the concept of virginity and its social construction from Ancient Greece, early Christianity, and European colonization, all the way to current day. We will explore how virginity is used as a tool to uphold oppressive systems, and perpetuate harmful stereotypes about gender and sexuality that contribute to rape culture. Participants will learn different ways to talk about virginity through an anti-oppressive lens to begin to undo some of the harm that the concept has caused.

Session II - 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

TAROT, ART & SELF-CARE ALL DAY IN THE ROOM TO BREATHE – SUMMIT ROOM

***The Complexity of POC Bodies: Exploring Rape, Trauma and Sexuality through Poetry**

Keiba Bragg-Best, MS, NCC, Veronica F. Jacobs, and Daniel Tovar

AFFINITY SPACE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

This session will explore the art form of poetry (through written and performance) and how it is utilized as a form of healing and communication for folx when confronting rape culture. Facilitators will touch on how identity is intricately woven into how POCs combat rape culture and how the two cannot be separate. They will be highlighting the work of renowned poets and how their work impacts our bodies and experiences, speaking about what poetry has done for them, and exploring ways in which attendees can better incorporate writing into their ways of processing the oppression they face.

Feminist Archetypes in Response to Patriarchal Culture: Myths of Resistance & Female Empowerment

Rita Munro, MA

This project explores female archetypes in Greco-Roman myth to uncover feminist responses to violent patriarchal culture. Although not commonly referred to as rape culture among historians (as the term would be anachronistic), the abduction of and violence towards women is pervasive in Greco-Roman myth, so much so that many courses on myth include trigger warnings or censor content. This presentation will explore female archetypal responses in myth, explore those responses from a feminist lens, and think creatively about how these myths may inform or inspire feminist resistance, community healing and female self-realization. The presentation will be strongly informed by feminist interpretations of the work of Carl Jung and prominent feminist historians, psychotherapists and educators.

Human Trafficking and Rape Culture: Understanding How Trafficking Shows Up

Nina Carr, Isabel Fetter, Mikayla Humiston, Callie Kotzan, and Theresa Noonan – Members of UVM's Human Trafficking Awareness and Activism Club

This session is primarily meant to provide participants with a better understanding of human trafficking; what it is and the connections it shares with rape culture. Presenters will define human trafficking and give explanations of terminology, review concepts of manipulation, coercion and dependence, and challenge myths about how human trafficking shows up in our shared communities. Particular attention will be given to the ways in which intersectional oppression plays a role in creating spaces where human trafficking can, and does, flourish.

Invisible Boys: The Neglected Victims of Sexual Abuse

Glenn Herring

The purpose of this session is to spread awareness of the impact of childhood sexual abuse on men. The presentation will focus on statistics and data related to men who've had unwanted sexual experiences in their childhood. Participants will examine standardized symptoms of childhood sexual abuse on boys and men, the ways perpetrators lure or "groom" victims, and reasons many men choose not to disclose.

***Navigating Hookup Culture as a Survivor**

Linnea Johnson

AFFINITY SPACE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

This session provides an opportunity for survivors to create ideas together about how to communicate boundaries with sexual and romantic partners, and how to maintain their own pleasure as a priority equal to that of their partners, after a past experience of sexual violence. There is no concrete answer about how to navigate hookup culture as a survivor, and what is best for each person depends on their own identities and experiences. The hope of this session is that through meaningful discussion and connection, each participant will have some ideas about what might work best for them moving forward, and recognize they are not navigating this culture alone, but in solidarity with other survivors.

Pizza Planet: Practicing New Metaphors for Consent that Center People and Pleasure

Phoebe Rotter

Drawing on the work of Al Vernacchio in sex education and sexual activity metaphors, specifically his 'Baseball vs. Pizza' model of communicating consent, this session provides an opportunity to explore the concept of consent with creativity. Participants will define and discuss consent, and its importance in all types of interactions, not merely sexual activity, with an emphasis on the fact that without consent, there is no sexual activity, there is only violence, and that sometimes it is helpful for people to use metaphors and allegories to think about consent across interactions. This session is highly interactive and discussion based.

Vermont Youth Seeking Askable Adults: What Are They and How Can I be One?

Sophia Papka, Savannah Williams, and Laura Young

Connectedness is a key protective factor against perpetration of sexual violence as well as being essential for trauma healing. Join members of the Youth Advocacy Task Force (YATF) of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence as they highlight the voices of Vermont youth by exploring the results from their 2018 Vermont Youth Survey, which surveyed over 580 VT Youth ages 10-24. Having more supportive/askable adults was overwhelmingly ranked #1 when asked what would help them with their concerns. Presenters will share their subsequent social media outreach campaign, #askableadultvt, which continues to deepen the conversation with youth through photos, graphics, and gratitude. This exciting violence prevention project builds the capacity of adults to become more supportive and 'askable'. This interactive workshop will also include concrete activities from the WholeSomeBodies curriculum, which seeks to build capacity for adults to engage in meaningful conversations about sexuality that promote health and wholeness.

Violence in the Anti-Violence Workplace

Lucy Basa and jas wheeler

The former staff of HOPE Works (currently organizing and doing anti-violence work as the Woven Collective) share their experience striking and ultimately resigning from Chittenden County's sexual violence program. This workshop will give a brief outline of their unprecedented labor strike, the lessons learned, spiritual bypassing within the SV movement, and greater implications for the movement to end sexual violence. Q&A session if time allows

Session III - 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

TAROT, ART & SELF-CARE ALL DAY IN THE ROOM TO BREATHE – SUMMIT ROOM

A is Not For Ally: Affirming Asexual College Student Narratives

Catherine Meyer

The college experience is typically hypersexualized, presenting students as collectively sexually active and interested in sex. Such hypersexualization creates a culture that assumes the presence of sexual attraction, which massively excludes students who identify on the asexual spectrum. This exclusion becomes amplified when asexual students go to their campus LGBTQIA+ centers for support and discover that their "A for asexual" has been stolen by the people who claim to be their allies. Such erasure creates an environment in which asexual voices are silenced. As a result, many asexual people experience physical, emotional, and spiritual violence at the hands of a culture that does not value asexual ways of being. The presenter uses scholarship combined with storytelling to explain systemic issues facing asexual

college students, reflect on methods of resilience and coalition building for asexual students, and provide action steps to dismantle performative allyship. (Content warning: sexual assault, mental illness, suicide.)

ASK Us About Consent

Andrea Nicoletta and PPNNE Peer Educators

Advocates for Sexual Knowledge is a high school student peer educator group through Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. This workshop will be led by peer educators and participants will learn about how these students have used activities around consent and healthy relationships to increase knowledge among their high school peers. Peer Educators, with the help of PPNNE Education staff, will lead participants through three different activities that can be modified for a variety of audiences and will discuss their experiences through this program. Participants will leave with links to resources and the ability to design similar activities to use with their school and/or community.

Brainspotting: An Effective Healing Therapy for Survivors and Those Who Serve Them

Katherine Allen, MA, LMFT

Brainspotting is a healing therapy that is exquisitely effective in getting to the midbrain for trauma healing. As it is performed mainly non-verbally, it creates a safer space for clients to access and process their experiences, while also protecting those engaged in supporting recipients from exposure overwhelm and burnout. Attendees will learn how the brain experiences these traumas, how it protects the recipients, and how the brain can then find and release the trauma.

Defining Your Boundaries

Jennilee Stocker

This interactive session will explore the ways we create boundaries, what society has, or has not, taught us about who gets to have boundaries, and how or why we might change that narrative. Using definitional tools, as well as personal reflection, participants will explore the ways in which impacts of boundary violations may differ from person to person, and that individual boundary constructions are determined by a variety of personal factors. Both context and content of interactions will be examined in personal boundary construction and participants will leave with a stronger sense of connection to their own definitions of self and community.

***LGBTQ+ Anxieties and Strengths: How we do thrive under the Cis-Straight Gaze?**

Nathan Karas

AFFINITY SPACE FOR PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+

An affinity space for LGBTQ+ individuals to gather and be in community with each other. This is an affirming and healing space where we will discuss the different ways we endure stress and negativity from existing as an LGBTQ+ individual in public space. Being visibly LGBTQ+ in public space can be draining and it is 2019 and we want to keep our energy sacred! Specifically, this space will look at the different ways we cope, how we heal from the negativity, and how we can uplift each other.

Surviving Higher Ed. as a Survivor

Jennifer Clarke

In this session participants can expect to discuss the challenges and opportunities survivors have when working in higher education. Recognizing that students are not the only people on a campus who face sexual assault or misconduct, this session examines how survivors working in higher education can find support for themselves and others, capitalizing on their own resilience as means of supporting students and creating change at their institutions.

Taking Off The Masc: An X-Man's Journey Navigating Toxic Masculinity and Rape Culture

David Waller

This story-based and discussion-based session will ask participants to reflect on how gender roles and sexual violence intersect. Utilizing the models provided in comics culture, the presenter will examine the complexity of how rape culture applies to all genders, not just womxn, and create space for story-sharing that may not be available for folx in their everyday lives.

That's How They Do it in the Movies: From 'Baby It's Cold Outside' to Real Love

Julia Swift

Through examining clips from the past and recent pieces of media that have attempted to create new definitions of romantic and physical love, participants will explore what has been negatively influencing culture and end with an inspiring view they create together of how media can empower and uplift our visions of ourselves and our experiences with romantic and physical love. Pulling examples from around the world, the presenter will quickly move beyond the media of the past, which often reinforced rape culture and superficial love based in physical attraction alone, and find moments in media that broke new ground. Participants can expect to create their own characters and write their own love stories!

Session IV - 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TAROT, ART & SELF-CARE ALL DAY IN THE ROOM TO BREATHE – SUMMIT ROOM

A Christian Perspective that Counteracts Rape Culture

Rev. Ann Larson

Historically, Christianity has often been misused in developing attitudes and treatment of women and sexual minorities. Rev. Larson will explore scripture and spiritual resources that counteract that misuse and address alternative interpretations and understandings. Particular focus will be paid to the context of readings of scripture and the development of coalitions of support for survivors of violence.

Are You Really Trauma-Informed? Examining Practices that Truly Meet Survivors Where They Are

Brittany Haskins, Lindsay Martin, MSW, and Kristine Reynolds, MSW, LICSW

This session will focus on moving beyond trauma informed practices to being a safe space for survivors. Exploring language, policies, therapeutic approaches, and expectations, participants will examine ways that common clinical practice creates barriers to accessing services. This session will critique the professionalization of support work. It will offer strategies for improving and ways to truly meet survivors where they are.

Ecstatic Dance for Healing

Marla Goldstein

NOTE: Movement-based session; please wear comfortable clothing, if possible.

This session focuses on the healing integration of mind, body and spirit through a movement-oriented lens. Marla will gently guide participants on a somatic journey focusing on getting out of their heads and into their hearts while reconnecting with their body's natural intelligence. Ecstatic dance is a healing practice celebrated throughout the world as a timeless experience of community, culture, and change. Explore what it is like to so bravely free yourself from the self-imposed limitations of what we believe we should and should not do, how we should and should not act, how we perform and should not perform. This is safe a place to simply BE. This is a place where YOU are celebrated. This is a place where everyone is welcome, always.

Gender Discrimination as Rape Culture in the Workplace: What Can You Do?

Kimberly Ead and Ana-Cristina Medal

This session will address the connection between rape culture, gender bias, and pay inequity as well as look at ways to dismantle an oppressive system while being subject to many of its rules. Research reported by Change the Story VT on gender bias and gender-based discrimination in the workplace, will be shared, as well as the current trends in VT. Following the presentation, the UVM Career Center will provide strategies for salary negotiation, workplace negotiation, and participants will role-play various scenarios to practice the information presented.

Healing as an Act of Justice: A Follow-Up Conversation with Rev. angel Kyodo williams

Rev. angel will share space with those seeking further connection and information on the ways in which healing, justice, and liberation can be manifested on our campuses and in our communities.

Is it Always Belle and the Beast? Displaced Narratives of Trans and Non-binary Folx

Tahn

NOTE: This session is an opportunity for cis-identified folx to engage in dialogue about the impacts of sexual violence on queer, trans, nonbinary folx, and people of color.

In the heighten conversations around sexual assault and the #MeToo movement, the audience consistently seen are heterosexual and cisgender. We are still falling into a narrative of a CIS man and a CIS woman, presumably straight. This presentation offers awareness of the LGBTQ community, the trans community, and the issues facing QTPOC folx within the movement to end violence. The session will focus on where the narrative of who is seen and unseen begins and how audience members engage in self-work to process through narrative hijacking or bias. It will use elements of restorative practice, self-reflection, reflection with others, self-awareness, and taking a critical lens to the community on the exclusion and erasure of LGBTQ and QTPOC folx in the #MeToo movement.

***Queer Resilience: A Space for Honoring Nonlinear Healing**

Laura Aguilera

AFFINITY SPACE FOR QUEER & TRANS PEOPLE OF COLOR

This workshop intends to center QTPOC survivorship from trauma, specifically (but not only) from sexual abuse. In this presentation, Laura will address the implications for allowing healing to take a nonlinear path as well as honor participants' resilience as inherently queer. Participants will define what resilience means in the context of colonialism and capitalism. By participating in a group art project, they will honor their ongoing survival as well as grieve their trauma collectively.

Presenter Biographies

Laura Aguilera (she/her, they/them)

Laura is a graduate student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at the University of Vermont pursuing a Disability Studies graduate certificate. Alongside working as a Graduate Coordinator for Residential Life and doing a practicum at the Prism Center, they find the time to fulfill their passions in disability justice, resting as resistance, and community care.

Katherine Allen, MA, LMFT (she/her)

Katherine Allen, MA, LMFT was introduced to Brainspotting after the tragic Sandy Hook incident, where she was a local therapist. She is a Brainspotting Trainer and Certified Consultant, and has been a member of David Grand's private NY supervision group since 2013. Katherine is a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist in both CT and NH. Katherine has over 12 years of clinical experience and in 2017 she opened a new private practice in Hanover, NH called kTherapy and Brainspotting with Katherine. Katherine specializes in adoption, abuse, trauma and attachment, as well as couples and family therapy. She brings over a decade of experience in sexual assault healing to the Upper Valley, and brings Brainspotting as a healing tool for those who have experienced such assaults.

Jordan Allen-Brandon (she/her)

Jordan Allen-Brandon is a high school student who focuses her passions on public policy and advocacy work. Her work with the Vermont Commission on Women and the Vermont Network highlights her deep connection for public change. She loves a challenge and doesn't shy away from difficult situations. She hopes her work will influence youth and adults to participate in politics and advocacy work.

Lucy Basa (she/her)

Lucy Basa's (she/her) work in the anti-violence movement is sustained by her vision of (and deep belief in) a more-healed world where interpersonal and systemic violence is held and responded to with truthfulness, compassion, and transformative accountability. Lucy's participation in personal and social growth/change work centers grieving, love, humility, magic, intergenerational wisdom-sharing, and curiosity, and is informed by/owed to the labor and grace of a deep and wide network of (queer/trans/disabled/bipoc/working class) women, femmes, mothers, nurturers, & healers. She is currently a care coordinator at the chittenden clinic. Outside of work you can find her dreaming up and sewing magical & functional creations.

Keiba Bragg-Best, MS, NCC (she/her)

Keiba Bragg-Best is a graduate of the University of Vermont Counseling Master's Program where she studied Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She is also a graduate of East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania where she majored in Psychology and minored in Women's Studies and Deaf Studies. Keiba is a Vermont Rostered and Nationally Certified Counselor. She works as a counselor at the University of Vermont Counseling and Psychiatry Services. She is dedicated to looking at the whole person. She firmly believes that we all hold multiple identities that make up who we are. Her professional interests include counseling

under-served and traditionally marginalized populations, college students, identity development, community outreach, trauma and group work. She identifies as a Womanist. She enjoys dialogue, research and art centered on experiences of womxn of color. She is a poet and believes that creativity is life.

Nina Carr (she/her)

Nina Carr is a sophomore at the University of Vermont majoring in Political Science and Religion. She is the president of the Human Trafficking Activism and Awareness Club (HTAAC). In addition, she is a member of the University of Vermont Track and Cross-Country teams. Nina learned about human trafficking from an assembly at her high school and, since coming to college and discovering HTAAC, has been actively trying to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking.

Jennifer Clarke (she/her/they)

Jennifer Clarke is an Area Coordinator at Champlain College. She has worked in higher education for over three years and has a strong passion to educate and provide support for students. Jen is also a big lover of animals and often spends her free time with her pets Pippin and Onyx.

Rory Decker (she/her)

Rory Decker is a junior studying neuroscience at UVM. She hopes to pursue a PhD in neuroscience or psychology and eventually go on to improve public health through research on the neurobiology and psychology of sexual assault trauma and PTSD. She writes for the Natural Philosopher, which is a student STEM publication that aims to make STEM accessible to all people, and she is the secretary of Planned Parenthood Generation Action on campus. In her other free time, she enjoys practicing the art of makeup, cooking, and baking.

Alisa Del Tufo (she/her)

Alisa Del Tufo's work has been dedicated to magnifying the voices, ideas and experiences of marginalized people to support personal and community healing and justice. To this end, Alisa has used a variety of participatory practices including oral history, restorative practices, transformative education and participatory action research. Much of Alisa's work has focused on preventing and healing from the wounds of intimate violence and racism, including helping to found organizations that have supported individual healing and transformation, community and social change and the power of narrative and participatory research. Alisa uses narrative practice in various ways to support restorative justice and individual and community healing. Alisa has authored books and articles, and serves as a visiting faculty member at Bennington College where she teaches classes on Restorative Justice, Oral History and Participatory Action Research.

Scott Detweiler (he/his)

Scott Detweiler has served in the Vermont National Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office for the last five years where he helps craft policy and organizational initiatives as well as designs and delivers awareness and prevention training. The program also serves as a resource for survivors of Military Sexual Trauma to receive support and services.

Kimberly Ead (she/her)

Kimberly Ead is the International Career Counselor at UVM Career Center. She works with students to help them find their passion and navigate the job search process in the United States and globally. She has a background in social change while working at non-profit organizations and in the education system.

Jenna Emerson (she/her)

Jenna is a health educator in Living Well with a primary focus on inclusive, shame-free, and comprehensive sexuality education. Jenna received her Master of Education in Human Sexuality Studies from Widener University where she wrote a K-12 curriculum teaching consent

education through institutional and Quaker values. She received her B.A. in Sociology with Departmental Honors from Seattle University where she wrote a thesis about the social construction of virginity and its intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

Isabel Fetter (she/her)

Isabel is a sophomore at the University of Vermont working towards a major in microbiology, and a minor in health and society, hoping to pursue a career in global health. Her STEM heavy course load had her itching for involvement in social justice and activism, so she began attending weekly Human Trafficking Activism and Awareness Club meetings in fall of 2018. Isabel grew up in the Washington DC area, an area booming with political activism, but was drawn to Vermont for its outdoor recreation opportunities, particularly hiking and skiing.

Monique Gardon (she/her)

Monique is a Sophomore at Saint Michaels College with a double major in psychology and political science. At Saint Michaels, she is the Secretary of Academics in the Student Government Association. She has also been a part of the Feminist Club for two years now.

Marla Goldstein (she/her)

Marla Goldstein is the Education and Prevention Coordinator at Steps to End Domestic Violence. She travels to all of the high school health classrooms in Chittenden County to lead presentations on teen dating violence, healthy relationships, and digital dating safety as well as any local establishments or organizations requesting opportunities to expand their knowledge on dating and domestic violence. Ecstatic dance has played a huge role in finding a community in Vermont where she feels valued and safe in her body. When Marla is not at work, she is rock climbing, improv dancing, and/or figuring out more ways to merge her passions with her career.

Brittany Haskins (she/her)

Brittany Haskins has been serving survivors of violence through advocacy and therapy for the past 10 years. She is mindful of the ways that the youngest amongst us need care and support and is inspired daily by her interactions with young people moving through and beyond trauma. Brittany devotes herself to creating spaces of joy and connection for her clients, her family, her community. When she's not working, she can usually be found being silly with her husband and step son, reading, or walking her dog in the woods.

Glenn Herring (he/him/his)

Glenn Herring is an Assistant Director of Residential Education for the Department of Residential Life at UVM. He has worked in the field of higher education in Residence Life for 6 years prior to UVM. Within higher ed. he's had variety of professional experiences which include being certified as a victim's advocate, serving as an instructor for an undergraduate college course on cultural proficiency, and published a master's thesis on the experiences of African-American males at predominantly white colleges and universities. In his more recent experience (right before coming to UVM) Glenn lived in Chengdu, China teaching English and thoroughly enjoyed a life of travel and adventure in Asia.

Mikayla Humiston (she/her)

Mikayla Humiston is a third year Public Communication and Food Systems double major at UVM from Middlebury Vermont. In addition to the Human Trafficking Activism and Awareness Club, she is involved in Kappa Delta sorority and the Real Food Working Group on campus. Her interest in human trafficking stems from work she did as a Girl Scout with the UNICEF End-Trafficking campaign in high school.

Veronica F. Jacobs (she/her)

Veronica F. Jacobs is a poet and spiritual being. She values personal growth, family, racial justice, and healing. Veronica has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Education in Higher Education & Student Affairs from the University of Vermont (UVM). She spends her days supporting college

students in recognizing their brilliance, importance, and worth. She currently serves as the Program Coordinator for Orientation & First Year Experience at UVM and as an instructor for a first-year, social justice seminar at the Community College of Vermont.

Linnea Johnson (she/her)

Linnea is a senior studying Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at UVM, and is also currently an intern at the Women's Center. She hopes to go into women's advocacy and/or sex education after graduation. Linnea leads discussions in an intersectional feminist philosophy club on campus called A Different Voice. She enjoys creating spaces for productive and meaningful discussions with peers on campus.

Nathan Karas (they/them)

Nathan Karas is a Higher Education and Student Affairs Graduate Student at UVM. They have worked as a community builder for QTPOC students and a peer educator for all students around sexual health and social justice throughout their undergraduate and graduate career. Nathan is an avid Gemini enthusiast and cat lover.

Benjamin C. Kennedy, M.Ed. (he/him)

Benjamin C. Kennedy is a transgender academic, community organizer and activist, and social justice educator. He received a B.S. in Early Childhood Special Education and M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of Vermont, where his research and writing focused on the impact of early childhood educators on the gender identity development of young children. Benjamin currently works as the Learning Coordinator at UVM's Center for Academic Success, and serves as the Director of the Translating Identity Conference. Benjamin is passionate about social justice and equity, the accessibility of education to all learners, and universal access to trans-competent medical care; has been featured in the Huffington Post and NPR.

Callie Kotzan (she/her)

Callie Kotzan is a second-year student at the University of Vermont majoring in Political Science, as well as Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. She is the treasurer of the Human Trafficking Awareness and Activism Club. Callie is involved in a number of other clubs on campus including the University Players and English as a Second Language Club.

Rev. Ann Larson (she/her)

Rev. Ann Larson is a retired Lutheran minister. She has extensive, long-time experience as a volunteer in domestic, sexual, and child abuse. In Indiana: shelter volunteer and board member, Bloomington Indiana; part of task force that started a Rape Crisis Center; workshops in youth and adult faith forums and about religious resources for secular agencies. In Vermont: County task force; planned workshops that brought faith leaders together with workers in DV and Rape Crisis agencies.

Christina Lazelle (she/her)

Christina Lazelle earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Castleton University in 2016 and has since served as the Victim Advocate Coordinator for the VT National Guard. In this role Christina assists in the development and delivery of training as well as in providing advocacy services to survivors.

Lindsay Martin, MSW (she/her)

Lindsay is a social worker and currently practices individual, group, and family therapy with Otter Creek Associates and Woven Collective - a new anti-violence organization forming in our community. She is dedicated to working with survivors, their support networks, and those who acknowledge the inextricable connections between sexual violence and all other forms of oppression. As a recently resigned staff member of HOPE Works, Lindsay is also interested in the sweeping organizational change and activism required from our community/state/world to enact a movement that truly serves ALL survivors.

Ana-Cristina Medal (she/her)

Ana-Cristina Medal is a Higher Education and Student Affairs Professional focused in student development and concentrated in creating student enhancement programs centered around advocating for diverse student populations. She currently works at the UVM Career Center as a Career Development Counselor with a concentration in Education and the Social Services and serve as Pre-Law Advisor.

Catherine Meyer (they/them)

Catherine Meyer is a first-year graduate student in the University of Vermont Higher Education and Student Affairs program. They are dedicated to centering and uplifting asexual voices in higher education through their scholarship and practice. Catherine also serves as the advisor for the UVM Student Alumni Association.

Rita Munro, MA (she/her)

Rita Munro is a Social Work Graduate student and a Graduate Student Instructor at UVM. She received a Master's degree in US history in 2014 from the University of California, Santa Cruz and has been in Vermont since 2016. Rita's approach to mental health and counseling utilizes feminist psychodynamic approaches and focuses on the resources, values and potential of each person. She also is active in community creative writing projects and loves spending time working on her home.

Andrea Nicoletta (she/her)

Andrea Nicoletta is the Education Program Manager at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. She runs the Advocates for Sexual Knowledge Peer Education Program, a program for high school students who receive extensive training in sexual and reproductive health. Peer educators implement educational programs and activities to benefit their peers, their school, and their community.

Theresa Noonan (she/her)

Theresa Noonan is a sophomore nursing major, she is also a member of UVM's cross country and track and field teams. She became interested in human trafficking because she had been a part of a similar club at her high school and wanted to learn more about human trafficking specifically. She is also curious about how health professional can help to spot the signs and stop human trafficking!

Sophia Papka (she/her)

Sophia Papka is the Education Coordinator at Voices Against Violence. She has worked in the field of domestic and sexual violence for three years and loves the prevention & education work she does in her current role. Sophia has no hobbies but makes up for it in personality.

Kristine (Kris) Reynolds, MSW, LICSW (she/her)

Kris has been practicing for over 10 years, in a range of settings, specializing in working with individuals who have experience different forms of trauma. Kris wears many hats these days, she is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, has a private practice affiliated with Otter Creek Associates, is working on forming a new group practice, the Vermont Center for Resiliency, which will soon be filled with trauma informed/resiliency-based clinicians. Kris also teaches at Champlain College, and is a member of the Woven Collective. She has a passion for working with survivors and believes that every survivor's voice should be heard.

Phoebe Rotter (she/her)

Phoebe Rotter is the Vermont Education Coordinator at Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, where she works to expand access to reproductive health knowledge and expand inclusiveness and equity in sexuality education. Phoebe has worked as a garlic harvester, archivist, sign painter, and art educator; knows how to walk on stilts; and hopes her parents are proud of her.

Kayla Schneider (she/her)

Kayla is a senior at Saint Michaels College with a major in political science and a gender studies minor. At Saint Michaels, she is the Secretary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Student Government Association. She has also been involved with the Feminist Club for the past four years and is currently the president.

Willow Stein, MSW (they/them or she/her)

Willow Stein is a volunteer at SafeSpace Anti-Violence Program at the Pride Center of Vermont and co-facilitates Pondering Gender and Sexuality, a group for all questions and questioners, focusing on the intersections of sexuality, gender, identity, and social norms. Willow has long been a creature with great curiosity and an amiable kettle-stirrer, as well as a survivor of emotional and sexual violence. They strive to practice collaboratively and kindly, to build and strengthen community, and to empower other survivors to recover and use their voices. Before their MSW, Willow studied studio arts and creative writing, and enjoys pottery, poetry, and gardening.

Jennilee Stocker (she/her or they/them)

Jennilee Stocker is a Dietetics, Nutrition, and Food Science Major at UVM with a minor in Dance. She is an active member in the Dewey House for Community Service, Catamount Dance Crew, Women of Color Coalition, Asian Student Union, Student Dietetics Association, and Interracial Adoptees Club. She is also a Residential Advisor in the Sustainability community.

Julia Swift (she/her)

After years of writing for network television while shooting her own festival award winning shorts, Julia Swift realized her favorite part of working in media was being able to talk about film's impact on society with people just as obsessed as she is. Swift left Los Angeles and moved to Vermont where she can be seen every Friday morning on WFFF's (FOX 44) At The Box Office. Her roles on the selection committee for the Vermont International Film Festival (VTIFF), as an official critic at ROTTEN TOMATOES and as an Assistant Professor of Filmmaking at Champlain College allow her to train and uplift the next generation of artists and innovators.

Tahn (they/them)

Tahn is an Area Coordinator in Residential Life on Redstone Campus. They have worked professionally for four years in higher education institutions and residence life from central Arkansas to the University of Vermont. During this time, they have focused on supportive measures for students in the trans, non-binary, and APIDA communities through various outlets such as professional organizations ACPA's APAN to drag performance and theatrics.

Daniel Tovar (they/them/he/him)

Daniel Tovar is the Coordinator for Underrepresented Student Leadership Development at The Mosaic Center for Students of Color at UVM. Their work centers the voices of students of color and how these students choose to define leadership and their own style(s) of leadership. Daniel is passionate about creating affirming spaces for marginalized voices and untold stories. They are extremely passionate about poetry and creative writing as a tool for resistance and resilience and how people of color use creativity as a means for survival.

Natanya Vanderlaan (she/her)

Natanya Vanderlaan is excited about digital narratives and loves story work. She comes from a Public Health and Communications background and has facilitated empowerment and story-telling workshops in a broad range of settings and demographics. Prior to her work in Vermont she was in Boston working in Pediatric Research at Boston Medical Center. She is currently working as a Sexual Abuse Prevention trainer at Prevent Child Abuse Vermont.

David Waller (they/them)

David Waller is a Service Officer with the UVM Police Department. They are also an alum of the University, having worked for the Women's Center, Mosaic Center for Students of Color, and Residential Life. David is passionate about social justice education and inclusive practices and wishes to further this goal in their work with UVM Police Services.

Chani Waterhouse (she/her)

Chani Waterhouse envisions a world where people live in loving connectedness with themselves, others and the natural world, and learns most of what she needs to know through engaging with others, especially people who live with the impacts of oppression and violence. Ten years as an advocate with survivors of domestic violence informed her work in batterer intervention. The insights gained in those years serve as the foundation for her efforts as the Vermont Network's Director of Member Relations. The life-giving possibilities that exist in beloved community, diversity, coalition and collaboration propel Chani's work at the Network, where she helps build and maintain infrastructures that support the resiliency of the Network and its member organizations, VT's coalition to end gender-based violence, and other partnerships.

jas wheeler (they/them)

jas wheeler is a pisces & Black chicanx, originally raised up by their mother and grandmother in ohio. jas' work has been inspired by the strengths gathered from their lived experience and their ancestors that have come before. they seek to create spaces for survivors and workers on the margins. jas is committed to honoring other people's truths, and their own, as they seek to support folks at the convergence of all their identities and experiences. they are currently the community engagement manager at the peace & justice center.

Savannah Williams (she/her)

Savannah Williams is the Youth Advocate at The Advocacy Program at Umbrella in Orleans County. She has worked in the field of domestic and sexual violence and prevention education for over thirteen years. Savannah is an avid crocheter and loves to create new projects with yarn.

Skylar Wolfe (he/him/his)

Skylar Wolfe is the Director of the SafeSpace Anti-Violence Program at the Pride Center of Vermont. He has worked in LGBTQ+ anti-violence work for 5 years in a variety of roles including: suicide intervention, facilitating LGBTQ+ affirmation trainings and social affinity spaces, leading creative social change discussions and relationship workshops, providing direct services to other LGBTQ+ survivors of violence, and conducting research on the mental health of transgender university students. Skylar's work has led him to deeply question existing models of anti-violence work when applied universally; specifically - for each unique approach - who is centered and who may be being forgotten?

Laura Young (she/her)

Laura Young is the Youth Advocate at Umbrella in St. Johnsbury. She has worked for Umbrella for four years and comes from a background of working in residential care for struggling teenage girls. She loves good snacks, swimming, and playing with her baby and her dog.

