

SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT SPEAKERS 2019



Natalie Hammond, Keynote

Natalie taught third grade at Sandy Hook Elementary for 13 years before becoming the lead teacher in the building. In a morning meeting on December 14, 2012, she heard alarming sounds outside of the main office. She, the principal and school psychologist confronted the unknown. Although wounded multiple times during the attack, Natalie survived her injuries. She now serves as principal in a PreK-4 elementary school in Connecticut. Since the tragedy, she works with groups around the country to discuss resiliency in the face of adversity, the importance of communication and collaboration when developing safety plans, and the necessity for social-emotional learning to be embedded into our daily practice as educators.

Tom Crissman

Tom is a case manager at the Clarion University Center for Wellness. He is a licensed professional counselor and member of the Behavioral Assessment and Referral Team (BART). Tom has a background in outpatient, career and family-based counseling at both community and college settings and has been at Clarion for more than five years. He has a B.S. in psychology from Clarion and a master's in community counseling for adults from Slippery Rock, with a concentration in college counseling. Tom's interests include college student transition, suicide prevention and peer support.

Samuel G. Johnson, MA, BCC, NCC, MAC, ACS, LPC

Sam has lived in the Clarion area for over 15 years and runs his private practice, 4C LTD. He has worked in various mental health fields, both private and public, dedicating his life to the pursuit of competent and compassionate trauma treatments. Sam is a consultant in training for EMDR, working with couples and kids ages 14 and up. He is also a board certified coach, specializing in Internal Family Systems. His greatest passion is teaching trauma healing approaches to other clinicians.

Bill Kaiser

Bill served in the Carnegie Mellon Police Department for over 15 years as a uniformed officer, detective, firearms instructor, departmental training coordinator, and as a police academy and in-service course instructor. Later, he served in the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission as a police training specialist and curriculum

developer for over 21 years. Bill also served as an adjunct criminal justice instructor for six years and is the founder and director of Sanegor Protective Services, LLC. Sanegor provides security assessments, consultation and training services to faith-based organizations, houses of worship and ministries.

Jim McGee

Jim is the director for wellness at Clarion and a member of the Behavioral Assessment and Referral Team. With a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in rehabilitation sciences, he has more than 10 years' experience in higher education.

Kathryn Poggi Ed.D., BCBA

Kathryn's area of specialization includes autism interventions - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) programming and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) with a specialized focus in Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). She holds a teaching certificate in early childhood and elementary education and a master's degree in school psychology. She also holds a doctoral degree in educational psychology and is a Nationally Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Kathryn has dedicated the past 30-plus years advocating for youth and families of children with disabilities to thrive successfully.

Matthew G. Shaffer

Matt is the director of student engagement and development at Clarion and the chair for BART). He has degrees in education and higher education administration, having worked at Clarion since 2008 and in higher education for nearly 20 years.

William Spencer

William has worked in the field of public safety for nearly 20 years in a variety of roles across local and federal agencies. Over the past 10 years, he has worked for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency as an emergency management specialist and currently serves as the Western Area Office deputy director.

Laura Tilson, M.S., BSL

Laura has worked in the mental health field for 25 years. She is a psychological associate, licensed behavioral specialist and mobile therapist at CORE Psychiatric & Psychological Services, and has experience as a clinical director, trainer and outpatient therapist. Laura conducts psychological evaluations aimed at diagnosis, treatment planning and prescription of mental health services. She has a wide range of expertise working with families and children on the autism spectrum disorder as well as those with anxiety, trauma and ADHD. For the past two years, Laura has trained school staff on mental health issues, including trauma. She holds an M.S. from Clarion and a B.S. from Penn State. She is a certified Functional Behavioral Assessment Trainer, is certified in the Picture Exchange Communication System and Discrete Trial Instruction, and is certified to administer the ADOS-2.