



Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life Conference Committed to Saving Lives of Youth

4th Annual conference features powerful new speakers, programs, and students making a difference

Phoenix, AZ (January 2020) – Students are taking matters into their own hands to save the lives of their peers, as bullying and youth suicide rates drastically increase. On **Tuesday, January 21, 2020**, more than 4,500 students, from 157 schools and 54 school districts, along with law enforcement officials, mayors, community partners, and volunteers will fill the arena at [Grand Canyon University](#) to learn how to Speak Up, Stand Up, and Save a Life.

Now in its fourth year, the event will run from **9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** and will inspire attendees to create lasting ways to combat bullying, depression and suicide at their schools. The conference is free of charge thanks to partnerships and donations, and is open to all schools in Arizona. This year, the initiative is proud to announce its nonprofit status and a new partnership with United Healthcare, as the Title Sponsor for the conference. Their mission is to help people live healthier lives, in the perfect alignment with the goals of the conference and its vital effort to save lives.

The conference offers students a chance to hear from local and national speakers including: motivational speaker [Jeremy Anderson](#), returning for his fourth year to inspire attendees, and [Dr. Andy Erlich](#), who will share his dynamic presentation of *Freeing the Giant*, featuring a story about his Uncle Jake, at one time the tallest man in the world. The [UBU Project](#) is featuring the World Premier of their performance of "*I Will Stand Up For You*"; a one-act musical celebrating hope, resilience, self-compassion, empathy and the power within us all to care enough to speak up, stand up and save a life. Another highlight of the conference will be the presentations of the [Difference Maker](#) Awards to a student, law enforcement official, and teacher.

According to Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, Pendergast District Superintendent and Gina Godbehere, Maricopa County Attorney's Office Bureau Chief, "All of the conference is focused on seeking solutions to the difficult issues students face on a daily basis, inside and outside of school, including self-harm, substance abuse and how to handle social media. Breakout sessions will also allow students to brainstorm ideas on how to help their own schools increase each student's ability to speak up when they see harmful behavior by another student. Schools will also create and implement follow-up plans at their campuses."

The conference is for students in grades 6-12, adults and volunteers. Breakout sessions are available for teachers, staff and parents alongside law enforcement members and government leaders to learn how to become trusted adults ready to respond to students in crisis. For additional information, visit the website at www.speakstandsave.com.

Media is invited and encouraged to attend and interviews will be available with sponsors, speakers, students, conference founders, etc.

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About the Conference Founders:



Gina Godbehere is the Bureau Chief in the Community-Based Prosecution Division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. She has more than two decades of experience as a trial attorney and in assignments with a wide variety of bureaus, including Pretrial, Juvenile, Gang, and the Repeat Offender Unit, during which she has tried every type of felony case, including first degree premeditated murder. Throughout her twenty years of service with MCAO, Gina has played an integral role in developing the first Juvenile Drug Court, in implementing the Juvenile Transfer Offender Program, and is the co-author and creator of the Ultimate Trial Research Notebook used by prosecution agencies throughout Arizona. Gina is Maricopa County's designated Bias Crimes Prosecutor, and she actively trains prosecutors and law enforcement officers throughout the state. Gina was born, raised, and currently resides in the west valley. Gina is active in many community organizations.



Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux was born in New York, N.Y., where she attended elementary school and two years of high school. Lily's educational preparation includes degrees in Elementary Education (BA), Educational Leadership and Supervision (MA and Ph.D.), all from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a BA in Business Administration from the University of Puerto Rico. Her experiences are varied and include serving as a teacher, elementary principal, middle school dean of students, assistant superintendent, adjunct university professor, English as a Second Language Instructor, director of religious education at a military base, business owner, and community volunteer. Dr. DeBlieux was appointed as the first bilingual Latina Superintendent of the Pendergast Elementary School District in May 2014. Dr. DeBlieux is involved in community organizations including: The Hispanic Leadership Institute, Leadership West Class XXII, Glendale Chamber of Commerce, and others. Lily is sought after as a motivational speaker, and in 2015 she founded the organization Si No Yo, Quien? LLC, to provide training to empower women to reach new heights in their personal and professional lives.

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