

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

F-28

Teaching Good Sex: A Method for Violence Prevention

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Promoting sexual health and equity is a key factor in preventing sexual violence. With increasing regularity, educators and preventionists are asking about how to balance sexual health promotion and the continuum between exploitation and empowerment when it comes to pornography, sex work, and technology. In this presentation, we will practice health promotion skills that enhance our practice and help each of us address biases that we may bring into sexual violence prevention work.

Sexual health promotion is sexual violence prevention. Oregon has been working for years to align these efforts both in policy and in practice. One major challenge is a lack of training on how to even begin doing this work. We're asking generations of people who were taught to be uncomfortable talking about sex, to all of a sudden be comfortable talking about it, in order to more effectively prevent violence. This seems to be increasingly challenging when addressing topics like pornography and technology usage. How do we thoughtfully talk about sexual expression in an inclusive way and simultaneously acknowledge the positives and negatives of both pornography and technology? These are questions that educators around the country seem to be asking with ever-growing frequency.

In this presentation we will look at the continuum between exploitation and empowerment and practice skills to promote healthy sexuality in open, honest, and authentic ways. In the presentation provided at NSAC 2017, we took a deeper look into consent and consent culture as a way to practice our health promotion skills. As consent is a fundamental part of sexual health promotion and sexual violence prevention, we will include it, but this presentation will spend more time diving deeper into the issues of pornography and technology to further improve and enhance our sexual health promotion skills. Historically, this conversation has centered exclusively in either the empowerment or exploitation perspectives of pornography. Using Oregon practitioner, Sarah Nedeau's continuum to examine the nuances of choice and coercion, participants will have opportunities to thoughtfully discuss these topics and practice their health promotion skills to prevent sexual violence.

The presentation builds on the extensive work Oregon has done, and is facilitated in an open way to allow for participants to bring their own experiences with health promotion into the practice. We will learn from each other, and enhance the community of practice working to improve our prevention efforts. In this interactive workshop we will look at

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how we can create and enhance a community of healthy sexuality individually, in relationships, in our communities, and in our society at large. Participants will leave with handouts and web resources to assist them in their continued work and the presenter welcomes personal follow-up and questions from the audience, either in person, via email or work phone.

Learning Goals:

- Participants will be able to explain why sexual health education is critical to prevent future acts of sexual and other forms of violence.
- Participants will be able to identify at least four different components of sexual health promotion that are a fundamental part of sexual violence prevention.
- Participants will be able to provide a dynamic and inclusive definition for healthy sexuality, that also addresses the intersections between sexuality, pornography, and technology.

Megan Foster coordinates and supports comprehensive prevention efforts throughout Oregon, including extensive work to align sexual health promotion and sexual violence prevention using an anti-oppression framework. Meg has experience teaching violence prevention and healthy relationships classes in middle and high schools in Oregon. At the University of Oregon she worked for an organization aimed at reducing the risk of sexual assault for students and staff, while she earned degrees in Public Policy, Planning and Management as well as Journalism and Communication.