

MD | B.I.T. AFFINITY

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Maryland Behavioral Intervention Team Affinity Group

Officer Slate June 2019 - May 2020:

Chairperson: Stephanie Will, Montgomery College

Secretary: Christy Koontz, Howard Community College

Technology Coordinator: Marcus Peanort, Montgomery College

Affiliate Liaison: Pavan Purswani, University of Baltimore

Conference Chair (2020): Courtney Hart, Hagerstown Community College

During 2019-2020 the BIT Affinity Group focused on continuing to provide opportunities to share educational and training resources among the member institutions. The group has committed to providing the CSAO members with an annual conference.

Achievements for 2019-2020:

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the BIT Affinity group held 8 meetings. Three meetings are dedicated to conference planning, wrap-up, and planning for the new academic year. At each of our 5 other meeting throughout the year, we dedicated time to professional development. We were very fortunate to have some experts give 3-hour presentations on a number of particularly relevant topics.

- “Trauma Informed Communication Strategies: Implications for Behavioral Intervention Teams” -Deirdre O’Sullivan, Associate Professor at Pennsylvania State University
- “Cultural Humility: A Lifelong Pursuit” -Lauren Pires, Training and Outreach Program Manager at The Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
- “A New NaBITA Risk Rubric” -Lori Meehan, CCBC
- “BIT Basics” -Lori Meehan (CCBC), Pavan Purswani (UB), and Stephanie Will (MC)
- “Freedom of Speech on Campus” -Santo Scrimenti, Director of Employee and Labor Relations at Montgomery College
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Offering these types of trainings throughout the year has increased our attendance at regular meetings. In addition, the trainings as well as the addition of our Affiliate Liaison position has increased interest from 4-year colleges and universities around the state. The community colleges in Maryland have been at the forefront of BIT/CARE for years- other institutions have taken notice and want to learn from our experiences.

Despite the wrench that COVID-19 threw into all of our plans, we were still able to hold our 5th Annual BIT conference- **“Creating a Culture of CARE”**- via Zoom on April 17, 2020, with sponsorship from the Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, the Chesapeake Region (ACLEA) and support of the

CSAO Affinity Group. As we moved to an online format, we removed the fee for the conference this year, but ACLEA still provided sponsorship to cover any incidental costs. Hagerstown Community College had been slated to host, but the change in plans did not lessen our Conference Chair Courtney Hart's dedication to pulling off a successful event.

We embraced a hybrid model for delivering the conference offering a welcome, a panel on the impact of COVID-19 on higher education, and our awards presentation live via Zoom in the morning. For the afternoon, what would have traditionally been breakout sessions had been pre-recorded and uploaded to YouTube so attendees could watch whichever sessions they were most interested in at their own pace. Conference sessions included the following topics:

Opening Panel - ***"The Implications and Responses to COVID-19 in Higher Education"***

- **"Consent is Healthy"**
- **"Managing Anxiety in the Workplace"**
- **"Understanding and Using the New NaBITA Risk Rubric"**
- **"Cultural Humility: A Lifelong Pursuit"**
- **"Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder"**
- **"Student Assistance Programs and the Hybrid Model at University of Baltimore"**
- **"LGBTQ+ 101 and Affirming Education"**
- **"How to Support Students' Mental Health Through the COVID-19 Crisis"**
- **"Get Connected! Health Insurance and Resources for College Students"**
- **"Freedom of Speech on Campus: How Students' Rights Can Impact BIT"**
- **"When Controversy Comes to Town"**

Because of the BIT Affinity Group's longstanding relationship with NaBITA, we were also able to offer access to their suite of training videos to our conference attendees free of charge. About half of the presenters were from MD colleges and the other half were representatives from the following organizations: NaBITA, The Washington County Health Department, National Institute of Health, The Frederick Center, Pathfinders for Autism, Health Care Associates of Maryland, Business HR Solutions, and the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project.

One hundred attendees joined us for our live session in the morning. Registrants represented MACC and some Maryland four year schools, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington DC, New Jersey, New York, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas. Continuing the tradition established at our 2019 conference, the Affinity Group awarded the MD BIT Affinity Award for Excellence in the Field to Stephanie Will of Montgomery College. In addition, two new awards were given out for the first time, Up and Coming Professional in the Field was awarded to Courtney Hart of Hagerstown Community College and Best/Promising Practice in the Field was awarded to Pavan Purswani and Tony DuLaney of University of Baltimore for their Student Assistance Program.

The Affinity Group has been able to more effectively utilize technology to support our mission thanks to our Technology Coordinator. Our website contains information about all of our meetings and trainings for the coming year as we develop our programs, and it was also used as an essential platform in getting out information about the changes to our conference.

- www.bitaffinity.org
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Future Goals for 2020-2021

For the coming year we have already established dates and professional development framework for our fall meetings which will be held via Zoom. Unfortunately, due to the continuing uncertainty around COVID-19, we have temporarily suspended conference planning, including selecting a location, until we can more accurately predict where we'll be in April of 2021. The BIT Affinity Group will be holding its 6th annual conference, more details will be forthcoming. Regardless of whether we are on campus or not, we are planning to integrate the use of Zoom and other technologies in our conference and regular meetings to be more inclusive of institutions that struggle to travel and professionals that aren't able to take an entire day to meet for professional development and conference planning.

The BIT Affinity Group has been developing formal By-laws to govern business and operating procedures and we hope to have those approved and in place prior to our September meeting.

After such a successful year of reaching new and returning institutions, we will continue to place an emphasis on increased membership to ensure a broader perspective on best practices and to help sustain the BIT Affinity Group's mission.

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Co-Chairperson: Pavan Purswani, University of Baltimore

Secretary: Courtney Hart, Hagerstown Community College

Technology Coordinator: Marcus Peanort, Montgomery College

Affiliate Liaison: Allison Leventhal, Johns Hopkins University

Conference Chair (2021): TBD

The BIT Affinity Group

Submitted June 1, 2020 by:

Stephanie Will, Co-chairperson MD BIT Affinity Group
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