

# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Arkansas Safe Schools Conference

Statehouse Convention Center  
101 E. Markham St., Little Rock, AR  
July 19-20, 2021

## Keynote Speakers:



### **Lisa Hamp**

#### *“Lessons from A Virginia Tech Survivor”*

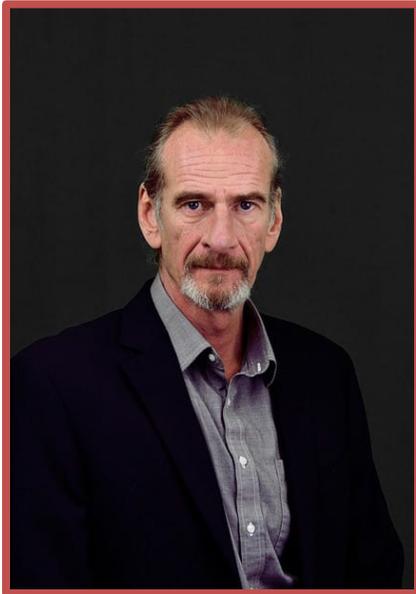
Lisa Hamp is a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting in Norris Hall that took place on April 16, 2007. With her classmates, she built a barricade to prevent the shooter from entering their classroom. Lisa suffered from untreated PTSD for many years after the Virginia Tech incident. In 2015, she sought counseling for an eating disorder. She had suffocated her feelings that were caused by the trauma and developed an eating disorder to cope. She has begun sharing her story with law enforcement, EMS, school counselors, social workers, and mental health professionals.

In this presentation, Lisa shares her personal story during the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, as well as her recovery afterwards and her struggle to return to a “normal” life during the weeks, months, and years that followed. She explains what made her eventually seek counseling after eight years and a variety of hard, but powerful lessons she has learned since that tragic day. Through her raw and emotional presentation, she provides a survivor’s perspective on experiencing and recovering from a school shooting.

She has a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Virginia Tech, a Master’s degree in Operations Research from George Mason University, and a Master’s degree in Economics from John Hopkins University.

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## John Michael Keyes *"Black Swan"*

Following a school shooting that took the life of their daughter, Emily, John Michael Keyes and his wife Ellen founded the "I Love U Guys" Foundation in 2006. Since its inception, the Foundation has collaborated extensively with first responders, school districts and other safety professionals to create specific and easy-to-implement protocols to train for, address and respond to crisis situations.

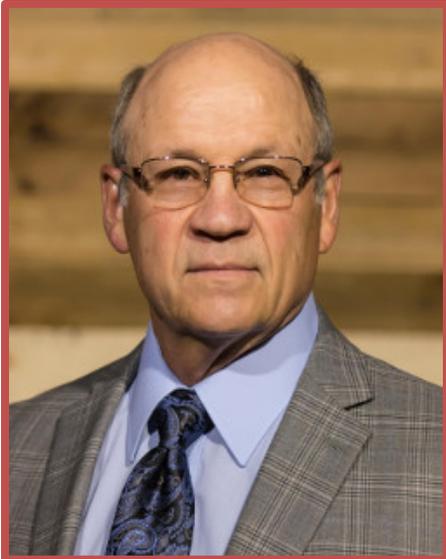
The resulting Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and the Standard Reunification Method (SRM) have been adopted by more than 25,000 schools, agencies, municipalities and government organizations across the United States and Canada as well as within Department of Defense International American Schools around the world.

In this presentation, John-Michael Keyes connects the violent incident at Platte Canyon High School with the Black Swan Theory of improbable events. Black swan events can be both negative and positive; John-Michael connects the violent incident at Platte Canyon High School with the Black Swan Theory. And the aftermath is also in that category; how the outcomes and programs of The "I Love U Guys" Foundation are unpredictably positive. Mr. Keyes will also provide an introduction to the Standard Response Protocol and Standard Reunification Method.

In support of the Foundation's work, Keyes travels the country speaking to audiences made up of students, educators, schools administrators, law enforcement professionals, first responders and federal leaders focused on school safety and community preparedness. Today, Mr. Keyes is an internationally sought keynote speaker not just in the arena of school safety but often presents to law enforcement-only audiences.

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## **Dave Opalewski**

### ***“The iGeneration’s Connection to the Suicide Pandemic”***

Dave Opalewski is President of Grief Recovery Inc., in Saginaw, Michigan, a certified Death and Dying and Suicide Prevention Instructor for Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. He is also a certified support group facilitator and child trauma specialist, along with being a 33-year veteran of K-12 education; 25 years as a classroom teacher and 8 years as the Director of At-Risk Programs. He worked part time for 3 years in a funeral home as an aftercare

consultant, working with families of the deceased and pioneered the Saginaw County Aftercare Adult Support Group.

In this presentation, Dave will address the fact that the average iGeneration adolescent checks his/her phone an average of eighty times per day. Adolescents communicate more on their phones than in person as two out of three own iPhones or smartphones.

Adolescents today are at the forefront of the worst mental health crisis in decades, with rates of teen depression and suicide skyrocketing.

He is ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) trained. His published books include 15-Minute Focus – GRIEF: Processing and Recovery, Confronting Death in the School Family, and many others. Dave Opalewski has been published several times in professional journals and is a highly sought after speaker at state and national conferences conducting professional development trainings for several school districts throughout the Country. He was recognized as the “2010 Advocate of the Year” at Central Michigan University for guiding college freshman and a nominee for the 2010/11 and 2012/13 “Excellence in Education” Award. He has recently retired as Professor Emeritus for Central Michigan University in the Teacher Education and Professional Development Department.

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## **Dr. Charles "Chuck" Barber**

***"The Road I've Traveled: From Bald Knob to Washington DC"***

Dr. Charles Barber assumed the duties as the Department of the Navy's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Lead in May 2021. In this role, he will ensure strategic I&D initiatives are institutionalized into Department of Navy and DoD culture, policies, programs and procedures in alignment with Presidential Management Agenda items and SECDEF Priorities. He is a native of Bald Knob, Arkansas. He graduated from Bald Knob HS in 1992. After HS, he attended Ouachita Baptist University where he majored in Business and starred as a sprinter on the OBU Track

Team. He later joined the Army where he continued to compete as a member of the All Army Track team. He won the 100M at the 1997 All Army Camp and also holds a personal best of 9.98 seconds in the 100M while competing at Fort Huachuca for the Army's track program. His time is still recognized today as one of the fastest times recorded in the Army, Military and the state of Arizona. Dr. Barber is a proud Army Veteran. He achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Three (CW3). He served our country honorably in peace and wartime to include multiple deployments to Kosovo and Iraq in support of critical contingency operations

He has over 20 years of experience in Human Resources, Inclusion & Diversity, Business Transformation and Cultural Intelligence. Dr. Barber is passionate about transformation and process improvement efforts as he's supported a number of government-wide efforts and Presidential Management Agenda items. He spearheaded the development of the Army's Soldier Record Brief (SRB) while supporting the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) which is lauded as a critical component of one of the largest Army HR Transformation efforts the Army has seen in the last 30 years. Additionally, while serving as the Culture Champion at the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) he spearheaded the development of a culture intelligence framework and expertly integrated transformational leadership principles into the framework. His efforts greatly enhanced the ability to operationalize culture.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management, a master's degree in organizational leadership and he earned his doctorate degree in transformational leadership from Bakke Graduate University, and is a certified Master Black Belt in Six Sigma. A recognized expert in Diversity, Culture and Transformational Leadership, he routinely lectures throughout government, corporate and academic sectors on the topic.