

2018 Higher Education Forum

Agenda

8:00 a.m. Arrival, registration, and breakfast

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Panel Discussion:

Keynote: Suicide and Mental Health on Campus

Kelly Posner Gerstenhaber, Professor, Columbia University and
Founder and Director of The Columbia Lighthouse Project

Panelists will respond to Kelly's presentation and discuss approaches and
problems both on and off campus, and in the world

Jon Pletcher, Director of Medical Services, Princeton University

Anne Skleder, Provost, Wilkes University

Karyn Feit, MSW

Bill Alexander, Director [ret.] University of Pennsylvania CAPS

There will be ample time for questions and comments.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Short talks on selected topics

Mental Health Services on Campus – What's the legal landscape? Does it
matter? –

Stephanie Benecchi, Montgomery McCracken

Concussion and sports injury –latest developments

Steve Pachman, Montgomery McCracken

Title IX – What's up now?

Paul Apicella, Montgomery McCracken

OTHERS - TBA

12:15 p.m. LUNCH

12:45 p.m. Ethics Hour - Ripped from the Headlines (Ethics CLE)

Johnny Myers, Montgomery McCracken

Larry White, Special Counsel, Univ. Sys. Of NH

Our Participants

[Kelly Posner Gerstenhaber's](#) work is saving lives in 45 nations on 6 continents, and she was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service for helping communities save lives. She is a Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University, the Founder and Director of The Columbia Lighthouse Project. The President of the American Psychiatric Association noted her work with the Columbia Protocol could be “*like the introduction of antibiotics.*” The CDC has said that her work is “*changing the paradigm in suicide risk assessment in the US and worldwide.*” The U.S. Department of Defense said her work is “*nothing short of a miracle,*” central to their National Strategy, and “*will help propel us closer to a world without suicide.*”

Dr. Posner’s work has been noted in a keynote speech at the White House and in Congressional hearings, and she made the lead presentation in a recent forum on school safety at the U.S. Senate in her partnership with Parkland. Jim Shelton, Former Deputy Education Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, says her work “has the potential to keep the 64 million children in our schools safe physically and mentally by helping prevent school violence.” Her work with the Columbia Protocol is policy in all states and utilized across the globe, helping communities and educational entities reduce suicide. In Israel, where the protocol is in every school teacher’s hands, Department of Education officials said her work “is not only saving millions of lives but in Israel it is literally changing the way we live our lives.” Through her advocacy, she has helped change local, national and international policy, which in turn has helped achieve reductions in suicide across all sectors of society.

Dr. Posner gave the invited presentation on tackling depression and suicide at the first European Union high level conference on mental health, was recognized as the Most Distinguished Alumna of her graduate school at Yeshiva University in the past 50 years, and received the New York State Suicide Prevention Award. She was named one of New York Magazine’s “Most Influential” and received the Angel Award of New York’s “100 Socially Responsible.” A lead article in *The New York Times* called this work with the FDA “one of the most profound changes of the past sixteen years to regulations.” Her scholarly work has been included in the compendium of the most important research in the history of the study of suicide.

[William Alexander, Ph.D.](#) just retired as the Director, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at Penn. Bill’s career focused on adolescents and young adults. His early work was with young children and family and marital therapy. His focus at Penn was the implementation of a public health model of clinical intervention in an effort to reach underserved student populations within the university.

[Jonathan Pletcher, MD](#) is a Pediatrician and Adolescent Medicine specialist, and the Director of Medical Services at Princeton University. He was trained and served as the Clinical Director for the Division of Adolescent Medicine at CHOP, in Philadelphia.. More recently, Jon was the clinical director for the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, overseeing the development of programs supporting the transition to adulthood for youth with

complex health needs. Throughout his professional life, he has led the development of comprehensive and accessible clinical programs to meet the need of diverse populations by engaging and responding to the youth being served. Jon is also the husband of Brooke, a Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, and the father of three young men.

Karyn Feit, LCSW, Positive Change for Teens and Families, worked as a Child Advocate and then as a Clinical Social Worker at the Adolescent Care Center at CHOP, Philadelphia, where she worked with teens, couples and families. She also supervised Master's level clinicians and studied the efficacy of attachment-based family therapy with suicidal teens. Karyn co-facilitated and published a curriculum entitled "REACH-OUT," a psycho-educational support group for teens living with chronic illness, which is part of the book *Reaching Teens and Guiding Adolescents*, a DVD and training program for medical and counseling providers working with teens. She is currently in private practice in Philadelphia.

Dr. Anne Skleder, Senior Vice President/ Provost, Wilkes University, joined Wilkes in June 2014, having served as provost at Cabrini College, dean of Chatham College for Women and numerous positions at Alvernia University including vice provost, associate vice president for academic affairs and enrollment management, chief student affairs officer, and founding director of the Center for Community Engagement. She has presented nationally and internationally and published on a wide variety of these topics and in her discipline of social psychology. With a focus on students, Dr. Skleder has served as a chief student affairs officer, overseeing counseling directly, and at Wilkes works closely with the division of student affairs to ensure appropriate resources are in place to provide counseling and support services for students, including those at risk for self-harm or suicide.

Larry White is currently Special Counsel in the GC's Office of the University System of NH. He has worked for almost forty years as a lawyer and administrator in higher ed. Prior to his retirement as a full-time university lawyer in 2015, he was Vice President and GC at the University of Delaware. Earlier, he was University Counsel at Georgetown; Deputy General Counsel at UVA; counsel to the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland System and Morgan State; and Assistant Secretary and Associate Counsel at the AAUP. He has been an adjunct faculty member at U of P Law School, Georgetown, and the Wharton School. Larry is a member NACUA, and was a director and officer. In 2010 he received NACUA's Distinguished Service Award. He has a J.D. from Penn and a B.A. from Harvard.

From Montgomery McCracken

Paul Apicella is a member of the firm's Labor and Employment practice, where he focuses on employment litigation, labor and higher ed matters. He has considerable experience in higher ed on issues of sex and/or gender-based harassment and misconduct (including Title IX) and other forms of discrimination. He has been involved in policy formation, training and education, investigation, and adjudication of student and employee disciplinary matters. Prior to joining Montgomery McCracken,

Paul was a Title IX Compliance Administrator for three universities and an associate at a large national law firm.

Stephanie Benecchi is a commercial litigator whose paths not traveled included both higher educational administration and graduate study in psychology. Steph's litigation practice focuses on class action defense, white collar defense, and government investigations. She recently counseled a health system with respect to Title IV issues related to one of its graduate programs. She is a graduate of Columbia University, where she was a member of the Varsity Women's Swim Team, and Fordham University School of Law, where she conducted independent research on the intersection of the No Child Left Behind Act with state education law as applied to gifted students.

Johnny Myers has been in higher ed since Penn accepted him in 1964 [egrad]. He heads MMWR's Higher Ed practice group. He is an experienced litigator and has, at one time or another, been at virtually every spot in the courtroom: plaintiff's lawyer, defendant's lawyer, judge pro-tem, witness, defendant. Similarly, in the Title IX arena, he has been investigator, trainer, fact-finder, and appellate officer. Johnny is also a grandfather.

Steve Pachman's practice concentrates on defending catastrophic sports injury matters and counseling on institutional liability issues involving concussions. He has been involved in several nationally-publicized concussion and CTE cases brought against NCAA member schools, high schools, trainers, coaches, and team physicians. Steve also has authored a number of articles regarding how schools and health care professionals can minimize their liability risks as to concussion lawsuits.