



Biography of Our Executive Director

www.takebackthenight.org

Katherine H. Koestner

Executive Director, Take Back The Night

Ms. Koestner is a national expert on student safety and wellness issues. She has presented to more than one million students in the United States. As the first victim of date rape to speak out nationally and publicly about her experience at The College of William and Mary, she appeared on the cover of TIME Magazine in June of 1991. HBO made a movie about her story in 1993. Ms. Koestner has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Geraldo, NBC Nightly News, CNBC Talk Live, Larry King Live, Good Morning America, Later Today, CNN, Entertainment Tonight, MTV, Lifetime Television, Italian TV, The Jane Whitney Show, The Big Idea with Donny Deutsch, and dozens of other news programs. She has given interviews for the Washington Post, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, The Journal of Higher Education, and countless other national and regional publications.

Her appearance and press conference on Capitol Hill with Congressman Jim Ramstad helped to encourage Congress, and later President Bush, to pass the *Campus Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights* into law in 1992. Ms. Koestner has keynoted over 100 conferences including the East and West Coast 4th Annual Student Conferences on Campus Sexual Violence in 1995, as well as on behalf of the New Mexico School Boards Association, the Association of Maryland Independent Schools, the Pennsylvania State Educators' Association, and the US Department of Defense. She has presented at the national conferences for the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National School Boards Association (NSBA), the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), and the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA).

Starting when she was only 21 years old, Ms. Koestner was asked to present to the incoming students at MIT, Dartmouth University, West Point, the US Naval Academy, Brown University, Amherst College, Williams College, Colorado College and many other top universities. She continues to regularly present for students and is under contract with public and private secondary and post-secondary schools throughout the country, ranging from Phillips Andover Academy and The Lawrenceville School, to Brown University and Colorado College. To date, she has presented on student safety issues at over 1,500 schools in forty-nine states and Canada.

She has served as a consultant to schools on the revision and development of their sexual misconduct and technology policies and response protocols. She is the architect of The Complete Sexual Misconduct Reduction and Response System and The Customizable Model Acceptable Use Policy in place at schools across the country. She has partnered with the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguar's Foundation to work with students in twenty-four public schools in Jacksonville, Florida. The US Department of Education asked Ms. Koestner to work with Tipper Gore and Bonnie Campbell in its initiative to help women at risk for sexual violence. She founded "The i Club," a national high school peer leadership organization focusing on respectful relationships.

In 2001, Katie began work on uniting the international efforts to end sexual violence under the banner of Take Back the Night. The national foundation was formed and the website built by 2002. She now serves as the Executive Director of the international organization, which received a substantial grant from the Avon Foundation for Women in 2009 to hold the first Take Back the Night National Conference at Columbia University on November 7, 2009. Katie's latest initiatives on behalf of Take Back the Night include a benefit CD collection of original music and plans for annual national marches to occur in major metropolitan cities across the country.

In 2002, Katie worked with MIT to create "LifeLessons: Sexual Assault 101," an interactive CD ROM for high school and college students. In 2003, she wrote and directed two films with national award-winning Top Hat Productions: *"Please Write Back: Sexual Assault among America's Students"* and *"Helping a Sexual Assault Survivor."* These thirty-minute educational videos are used by schools and rape crisis centers across the country to educate students in health classes and other community awareness programs, as well as to train faculty, police officers, coaches and other responders on the appropriate steps to take in assisting a student who reports a sexual assault experience.

In 2004, Ms. Koestner developed an online education series, Parent-Connect, a powerful program that brings together parents nationwide through the internet to hear from national experts on a variety of student wellness and parenting issues, such as mental health, learning differences, teen hook-up culture, bullying and harassment, substance use, and high risk drinking. The program provides outreach to under-privileged communities and has over 200 school subscribers.

Additionally, her foray into the benefits of technology has also enabled her to direct an annual program to assist schools in updating their policies and procedures on an emerging issue each spring in order to stay ahead of the face-paced curve of today's ever-changing educational landscape. She has been asked to assist fortune 500 companies, the US Military, large public school districts, national public television groups, Canadian university presidents, and numerous other groups with their technology education programs.

In 2008, Ms. Koestner developed the first Virtual Sexual Assault Response Training Center for schools, utilizing subject matter experts from Colorado College, Harvard University, the University of San Diego, Franklin and Marshall College, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and top education attorneys. This online platform enables any school to provide affordable, consistent, high-quality training and resources for their staff.

Ms. Koestner's latest energies have focused on the risks and responsibilities for students and schools with respect to technology in its many forms. She has assisted schools and school districts in developing proactive policies, procedures, risk management strategies, and educational programs around such topics as social networking sites, video phone usage, text and instant messaging, boundary setting for faculty and staff members, online gaming, identity theft, defamation of character, bullying, harassment, sexual exploitation, and a myriad of other ramifications of technology. To formalize the important conversations on these issues, the first ever risk management conference for boarding schools was jointly crafted by Katie Koestner and the Association of Boarding Schools to address the issues of security, policy best practices, training and student conduct in June 2009 at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware.

Education and Academic Honors

College of William & Mary – Williamsburg, VA
Bachelor of Arts -- Public Policy and Women's Studies
Magna Cum Laude
Phi Beta Kappa
Finalist, Harry S. Truman National Scholarship Award
Coe College – Des Moines, IA
Doctorate of Public Service, Honorary

Experience

- Subject of June 3, 1991, TIME Magazine cover and cover story on Date Rape.
- Featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Geraldo, NBC Nightly News, CNBC Talk Live, Larry King Live, Good Morning America, CNN, Later Today, Entertainment Tonight, MTV, The Donny Deutsch Show, Italian TV, The Jane Whitney Show, Morton Downey, Jr., and scores of other national and local news programs.
- Interviewed for articles in the Washington Post, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, the Journal of Higher Education, and numerous other national publications.
- Founder, Campus Outreach Services, Inc., a consulting organization working with schools to address risk issues.

- Presented keynote addresses on the topic of sexual assault at over 1,500 different colleges, high schools, military institutions, youth groups, and service organizations all over North America.
- Regular keynote speaker at each of the United States' military academies.
- Keynote, over forty College Sorority, Fraternity, Residence Life, Student Activities, and Student Health Conferences.
- Keynote, First International Conference on Sexual Assault and Harassment on Campus, 1991
- Founder of Students Helping Others to Understand Trauma (SHOUT) at Cornell University, 1991
- Consultant and Subject, production of HBO docudrama entitled "No Visible Bruises: the Katie Koestner Story," 1993
- Certified Sexual Assault Counselor by Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault.
- Volunteer Rape Crisis Counselor, 1993
- Keynote, 4th Annual National Student Conference on Sexual Violence, 1995
- National Organization of Women (NOW) "1995 Young Feminist Making a Difference Award," 1995
- Keynote, North Carolina A&T Campus Safety Conference, 1998
- Keynote, Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault Conference, 1998
- Plenary, 8th Student Conference on Campus Sexual Violence, 1999
- Plenary, Fraternity Executive Association Annual Meeting, 1999
- Keynote, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity Annual Meeting, 1999
- Plenary, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Conclave, 1999
- Keynote, Zeta Tau Alpha Annual Conference, 2000
- Keynote, Kappa Alpha Fraternity Annual Conference, 2000
- Founder, The Katie Koestner Initiative for a World Without Rape (TKKI), a non-profit organization dedicated to creating awareness of sexual assault issues and ultimately preventing its occurrence, 2001
- Consultant and Featured Guest for LifeTime Television's *What Should You Do* episode on Sexual Assault, 2003
- Producer of Video Series: *What Everyone Should Know About Sexual Assault and How to Help a Sexual Assault Survivor*, 2004
- Presenter, National School Boards Association Annual Conference, 2004
- Keynote, New Mexico State School Boards Associate Leadership Conference, 2004
- Featured Speaker, Washington State School Boards Association Annual Conference, 2004
- Keynote, The Sexual Misconduct Symposium for New England Independent Schools, 2004
- Founder, the i Club, a national peer leadership program promoting respectful relationships amongst students, a development out of TKKI, 2004
- Presenter for the American Association of School Administrators National Conference in San Antonio, 2005
- Presenter, National School Boards Association Annual Conference in San Diego, 2005
- Founder, Take Back the Night National Headquarters, 2005

- Director, The 2005–2006 Sexual Misconduct Response Training Series for Residence Life, Judicial Affairs, and Campus Police Officers
- Featured Speaker, Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals Annual Conference in Valley Forge, PA, 2005
- Featured Speaker, New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, 2005
- Pre-Conference Workshop Speaker, The Association of Boarding Schools Annual Conference in Washington, DC, 2005
- Keynote Speaker, Virginia Association of School Superintendents Meeting, Roanoke, VA, 2005
- Keynote Speaker, Washington Association of School Superintendents Meeting, Spokane, WA, 2006
- Featured Speaker, National Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference, Boston, MA, 2006
- Director, The 2006 June Policy Webinar Series on Sexual Misconduct Issues for Independent Schools
- Keynote, Microsociety Annual Conference, Detroit, 2006
- Director, The 2006–2007 Parent-Connect Webinar Series
- Director, The 2006–2007 Sexual Misconduct Response Training Series for Residence Life, Judicial Affairs, and Campus Police Officers
- Keynote, United Educators Insurance Company Annual Public Schools Member Conference, Washington, DC, 2006
- Keynote, Superintendents' Conference by The Jewish Community Relationship Council of Philadelphia, 2006
- Pre-Conference Workshop Speaker, The Association of Boarding Schools Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 2006
- Keynote, Young Presidents' Organization Education Series, Greater Philadelphia Chapter, 2006
- Presenter, Association of Student Judicial Affairs Annual Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL, 2006
- Keynote, Joseph Wharton Scholar's Program, Wharton Business School, 2006
- Keynote, National Character and Leadership Symposium, United States Air Force Academy, 2006
- Keynote, Associate School Boards of South Dakota Conference for Member Schools, 2006
- Keynote, Stand Up Against Sexual Assault Conference, United States Department of Defense, Pentagon, 2006
- Keynote, Pennsylvania State-Wide Intermediate Unit Meeting, Harrisburg, 2006
- Director, The 2007 June Policy Webinar Series on Cyber-Technology Issues for Independent Schools
- Director, The 2007–2008 Parent-Connect Webinar Series
- Director, The 2007–2008 Sexual Misconduct Response Training Series for Residence Life, Judicial Affairs, and Campus Police Officers

- Keynote, Pennsylvania State Educators' Association Conference, 2008
- Keynote, Canadian University and School Presidents Special Meeting in Toronto, CN, 2008
- Keynote, National Public Television Education Division Web-Seminar, 2008
- Director, Acceptable Use Policies Best Practices for Independent Schools Seminar Series, 2008
- Featured Presenter on Cyber-Smarts, the Association for Boarding Schools Annual Conference, 2009
- Director, The 2008-2009 Parent-Connect Webinar Series
- Creator, V-SART, Virtual Sexual Assault Response Training Center, 2008
- Founder, Mom-nology and Kid-nology, 2008
- Keynote Address and Co-Creator, The Risk Management Conference for Boarding Schools, 2009
- Conference Coordinator and Keynote Address, Take Back the Night National Conference, Columbia University, 2009

Publications

Sexual Assault on Campus: What Every College Needs to Know About Protecting Victims, Providing for Just Adjudication, and Complying with Federal Laws (1995)

Total Sexual Assault Risk Management Strategies (1998)

Just Sex (2000), chapter author

A Customizable Response Protocol and Training Manual for Sexual Misconduct in Schools (2004)

Responding to Sexual Assault: Faculty Training Manual (2004)

Responding to Sexual Assault: Residence Life Staff Training Manual (2004)

The 2005 Sexual Misconduct Source Book for Schools (2005), editor, chapter author

The Cyber-Safety and Technology Risk Assessment Tool for Schools (2006)

The Customizable Model Acceptable Use Policy Template for Schools (2008)

Numerous journal articles, news stories, and other publications for local media outlets and websites.