

WOKSAPE

“The Wise Book”

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Project SUCCESS Brings New Drug and Alcohol Prevention Specialist to Yankton High School



BY
OLIVIA
CHRISTOPHER

New to the Yankton School District is Tiffany Kashas. Kashas is Yankton’s first Project SUCCESS counselor to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among students.

“I have seen many people's lives be adversely affected by alcohol and drugs and wanted to make a difference in other peoples lives by helping them in their life's journey,” Kashas said.

Kashas attended University of South Dakota where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies Program. Her degree emphasis is in treatment and prevention. She also has a Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

Before coming to Yankton, Kashas was a member of the USD Student Counseling Center. There she provided Prevention Education, Chemical Dependency Counseling and Prevention Outreach to college students.

“I came from a rewarding experience working with College students,” Kashas said. “I felt by taking this job I could change my focus and impact students at a younger age.”

Over the past few academic years, the drug and alcohol issue has increased in Yankton school district. Community concern has increased as well.

“Unfortunately we have had a number of issues at Yankton High School over the past few years involving Drugs and Alcohol,” said Yankton High School principal, Dr. Wayne Kindle. “We felt it was important to find a way to acquire a drug/alcohol counselor.”

Having Mrs. Kashas in the school district provides a professional resource person for students and parents, educates the ninth grade class through curriculum and coordinates and organizes school wide activities to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

Kashas also provides intervention, counseling, and screening for those who violate training rules or other drug/alcohol issues in school.

In order to provide this resource, the school district partnered closely with agencies including: Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health, Court Services, Yankton Police Department, Yankton County Sheriff, Judge Eng, Yankton Ministerial Association, and Yankton County States Attorney.

“I have received an overwhelming response from students, parents, teachers, and community members who appreciate community entities coming together to bring awareness about the unpopular topic of drugs and alcohol,” said Kashas.

By implementing Project SUCCESS, Kashas plans to reduce and even prevent the abuse of drug and alcohol use throughout the youth of the community. This could include classroom education, school-wide activities,



COURTESY PHOTO

Project SUCCESS counselor, Tiffany Kashas, is shown preparing for classroom instruction. Kashas also provides intervention, counseling, and screening in addition to the curriculum she teaches freshmen.

and engagement between students and parents.

“We (the school district) will take the efforts (for) our community, school and parents to do whatever we can to improve this situation for our students,” Dr. Kindle said.

Kashas is at the High School in Office 101D Mondays and Wednesdays.


She is at the Middle School in Room 113 on Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays.

If she is needed on other days, she may be contacted through the front office staff. She may also be reached via the e-mail address, TKashas@ysd.k12.sd.us.

She may be contacted by anyone who has a person of concern, has questions, or has ideas for prevention efforts.

Kashas’ favorite quote and words to live by: “People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care!"

SUCCESS Starts with You!



- ⇒ Do you have concerns about your child’s alcohol or drug use?
- ⇒ Would you like to make a difference in a child’s life?
- ⇒ Want to be involved with school-wide prevention activities?

Hello, I am the new Project SUCCESS Counselor. I received a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of South Dakota (USD) in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies Program with an emphasis in both Treatment and Prevention. I also have a Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies degree (also form USD). I came from almost four years at the USD Student Counseling Center in which I provided Prevention Education, Chemical Dependency Counseling, and Prevention Outreach primarily to college students. I am looking forward to begin working with High School and Middle School students to make an impact at a younger age.

Project SUCCESS

The Yankton School District partnered with a variety of community agencies due to alcohol and drug violations that school-aged students presented with during this past academic year. Therefore, I was hired to implement Project SUCCESS, a program designed to help prevent and reduce substance use and abuse in youth. To include but not limited to classroom education, school-wide activities, and engagement with students and parents.

October’s Events

Sarah’s Journey Oct 2nd (Grades 9-12)
<http://sarahsjourney.com/index.htm>

Red Ribbon Week Oct 23-31st 2012

Availability

I am at the Yankton High School Mondays and Wednesdays; and the Yankton Middle School on Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays.

Feel free to contact me if you have a person of concern, questions, or have ideas for prevention efforts.

To the health and safety of our youth,

Tiffany L. Kashas, MA, ICPS, CCDC III
Prevention Specialist/Project SUCCESS Counselor
YHS (605) 665-2073
YMS (605) 665-2419
Work Cell (605) 661-6008

Yankton Teachers Attend NASA Summer Workshop



BY
MADISON
DANGLER

Five, four, three, two, one—blastoff! This summer Jama Mathison, the Yankton High School earth and space science teacher, attended a NASA workshop in Wagner, SD.

She learned of this program from Mr. Brooks Schild, a Yankton Middle School science teacher, by way of an e-mail informing the science teachers of this opportunity.

This NASA workshop was held in early June of this year in Wagner, SD. This four day workshop was comprised of several local science teachers, the Wagner Boys and Girls Club children, counselors, and other educators.

Mathison knew several others in attendance including Debra Howell (Yankton Middle School), Renae Bouza (Stewart Elementary School), Dawn Mueller (Stewart Elementary School), and Elizabeth Dooley (Sacred Heart Middle School).

The Workshop consisted of many hands-on activities.

Mathison said, “Space is so abstract. They gave us new ideas for hands-on activities to help students learn more.”

Examples of activities include a “distance and space” and “make a patch” activity. Two other design activities had the participants making a craft that would protect their egg when it crashed into a ‘planet,’ and they also had to hypothetically build a base on Mars and come up with a plan on how they would survive.

“The ‘Venture to Mars’ activity was created to get students to think outside the box—to think about what they’d need to take with them if they were spending a year on Mars. They’d need air



PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. JAMA MATHISON

Yankton teachers, Deb Howell and Jama Mathison, are shown participating in an activity at this summer’s NASA workshop.

to breathe and dirt for plants, and so forth—instead of a teacher telling students what kinds of things are needed for life on Mars, the students are able to arrive at those answers themselves through project based learning,” said Mathison.

Participants spent time with a NASA specialist and learned about the International Space Station.

These activities and many others were used to show participants that there is so much stuff out in space, and we are only

able to explore a fraction of it at this point.

Mathison stated the most valuable thing she learned was where to locate the endless resources provided to teachers on the NASA internet website.

Mathison also said most people would be surprised by the large variety of activities the NASA program offers to the general public such as grants, educational opportunities including job shadowing, and camps for teachers and children.

Y’s Words on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Affecting Deer and Cattle in South Dakota and Surrounding States



BY
ASHLEY
EILERS

A recent headline has hunters frustrated about the upcoming deer season that has come to a halt before hunting season has even opened.

A disease known as Epizootic hemorrhagic disease ,or EHD, has the deer population in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa plunging.

White-tailed deer come in contact with EHD after being bitten by an insect slightly smaller than a gnat called a midge. Bruce Trindle with the Nebraska Game Fish and Parks explains that a midge is “the size of a speck of pepper.”

These White-tail deer may not start to develop any signs of sickness until about 7 days after they have been bitten. Even at this point, when a deer may be near death, Trindle says the deer may appear in “fairly good body condition,” because the extensive damage is happening internally as blood vessels hemorrhage and cause blood to leak into the animal’s body.

Signs that a deer has been infected with EHD are: the deer slowly start to lose its appetite, they become very weak, and they become less afraid of people. The deer also develop a high thirst for water as a means to cool an extreme fever. Therefore, many of them are found dead in or near a water source.

South Dakota’s Game Fish and Parks have cut down the number of hunting licenses significantly, because they are experiencing such great losses in the deer population.

If the Game Fish and Parks did not alter the 2012 deer season, they estimate it would take



PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. TRICIA MILLAGE

This doe was found suffering from the final stages of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease.

almost ten years for the deer population to get built back up to where it is now. Hunters who have already received their license can either keep it and hunt or return it for a refund.

This disease is not only affecting deer, it is also affecting cattle. Already nine cases of dead cattle have been linked to EHD in Nebraska alone, though cattle do seem to be much more resistant to the disease.

The EHD virus does not have any prevention or treatment options.

Farmers and hunters alike are both hoping for a solid freeze, which would kill off the disease carrying midges.

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