



MAY 24 & 25, 2023

# LET'S CONNECT SUMMIT

ENHANCING SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR GA  
SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND FAMILIES

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## Let's Connect Summit Website

Scan this QR Code to access the features of the Let's Connect Summit website, including the summit agenda, information about contributors, information about Kennesaw, GA, and more!



# Welcome to the 2023 Let's Connect Summit!

## About the Let's Connect Summit

The Let's Connect Summit is made possible through the efforts of multiple partners working together through the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP). Through this two-day event, we aim to increase connection among organizations and professionals providing suicide prevention and related services to Georgia service members, veterans, and their families.

## About the Summit Hosts

**The Georgia Suicide Prevention Task Force** aims to increase the availability of suicide prevention gatekeeper trainings, decrease perceived stigma of suicide, increase awareness of suicide prevention and intervention strategies, and increase the use of evidence-based suicide prevention strategies, and collaborate with existing and/or emerging suicide prevention coalitions to achieve local objectives that contribute to state-level positive outcomes.

**The Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS)** is an agency of state government created for the purpose of advising, counseling, and assisting Georgia's veterans and their families in receiving their rightful benefits under the vast and complex framework of veterans' laws. Representatives from GDVS have collaborated to plan and implement this summit in order to maximize prevention and outreach efforts for veterans and their families.

**The Center for the Advancement of Military and Emergency Services (AMES)** aims to bring mental and organizational health resources to military, veteran, and emergency services populations, as well as their families and communities. Representatives from the AMES Research Center have collaborated to plan and implement this summit in order to enhance prevention and outreach efforts for service members, veterans, and their families.

# Day One Summit Schedule

## 10 AM. Opening Remarks & Keynote Address

### **The Importance of Suicide Prevention Efforts**

*Rick Twist, Highland Rivers Behavioral Health*

KSU Center, Room 400

## 11 AM. Breakout Sessions

### **Identifying Four Priority Groups of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF**

*Rosalyn La'Tric Williams, Department of Veterans Affairs*

*Calandra Ferguson, Georgia Department of Veterans Service*

KSU Center, Room 400

### **Postvention is Prevention**

*Dr. Bianca Channer, AMES Research Center, Kennesaw State University*

KSU Center, Room 460

## 12 PM. Lunch

KSU Center, Room 400

## 1 PM. Exhibit Hall

KSU Center, Fountain Atrium

## 2 PM. Breakout Sessions

### **From Crisis to Connection: Using Unite Us**

*Gregory J. Rosso, Unite Georgia*

KSU Center, Room 400

### **Reducing Stigma and Promoting Behavioral Well-being**

*Dr. Brian Moore, AMES Research Center, Kennesaw State University*

KSU Center, Room 460

## 3 PM. Keynote Address & Closing Remarks

### **Having an Impact with Suicide Prevention: (Past) Present & Future**

*Dr. David Rozek, University of Central Florida*

KSU Center, Room 400

# Day Two Summit Schedule

## 10 AM. Opening Remarks & Keynote Address

### Using Research to Enhance the Practice of Suicide Prevention

*Research-Affiliated Faculty and Staff of the AMES Research Center*

KSU Center, Room 400

## 11 AM. Breakout Sessions

### Spiritual Readiness and Resilience

*Sharonda Watson,*

*Georgia Army*

*National Guard*

KSU Center, Room 400

### Social Connection as a Protective Factor

*Marcus Laird,*

*US Air Force*

KSU Center, Room 460

### VA S.A.V.E. Outreach & Assessment

*Chelle Lamb*

*Atlanta VA*

KSU Center, Room 174

## 12 PM. Lunch

KSU Center, Room 400

## 1 PM. Exhibit Hall

KSU Center, Fountain Atrium

## 2 PM. Breakout Sessions

### Suicide Prevention & Social Connection for Aging Veterans

*Dr. Qwynn*

*Galloway-Salazar*

*In Their Honor, LLC*

KSU Center, Room 400

### Suicide Prevention in Georgia

*Rachael Holloman*

*Georgia DBHDD*

KSU Center, Room 460

### Filling in the Gaps: The Veterans and Military Services

*Dr. Stacey Dixon*

*Military & Veterans*

*Service, KSU*

KSU Center, Room 174

## 3 PM. Keynote Address

### Georgia National Guard Resiliency and Challenges

*Major General Thomas Carden, Georgia National Guard*

KSU Center, Room 400

## 3: 30 PM. Keynote Address & Closing Remarks

### Using Connection & Collaboration to Impact Quality of Life

*Lisa Dawson, Georgia Department of Public Health*

KSU Center, Room 400

# Summit Contributors

We would like to thank the following people and organizations for sharing their time and expertise with the attendees of the 2023 Let's Connect Summit. Your contribution to the wellbeing of Georgia service members, veterans, and their families is so appreciated. Please use the QR Code to the right to access full biographies for all speakers and a list of all Exhibit Hall participants.



## Summit Speakers

Speakers at the Let's Connect Summit are experts in the research and practice of suicide prevention and related services. They are sharing best practices through an engaging schedule of keynote addresses and breakout sessions on focused suicide prevention topics.

## Exhibit Hall Participants

The 2023 Let's Connect Summit features an interactive Exhibit Hall in which attendees can meet the organizations and professionals involved in Georgia suicide prevention and related efforts and learn more about the resources and services that they provide to service members, veterans, and families.

## Looking Ahead

Be on the lookout for information about the 2024 Let's Connect Summit to contribute as a speaker or Exhibit Hall participant.

# Information for Summit Attendees

## Questions & Assistance

If you have any questions or require any assistance, we are here to help! The members of the Planning Committee have a blue label on their name tags and event volunteers have a green label at the bottom of their name tags.

## Next Steps

Thank you so much for your attendance and contribution to the Let's Connect Summit. We would like to remind you of the following next steps in our ongoing enhancement of suicide prevention.

- Share your opinion about this event by taking the evaluation survey.
- Be on the lookout for information about the 2024 Let's Connect Summit.
- Join the Georgia Suicide Prevention Task Force and a Priority Group.

## KSU Center WiFi

In your network settings, connect to KSU Guest. Click "Click here" to create a temporary guest account. Complete the fields, agree to the terms, and click "Register." You will be redirected back to the KSU Guest WiFi Portal. You will receive an email and SMS containing temporary guest credentials. Enter your guest credentials, click "Sign On," and create a new password. Complete the fields and click Submit.

## Evaluation Survey

Use this QR Code to access the pre- and post-event survey evaluation survey.





# KSU Center Map



## FLOOR PLAN OF KSU CENTER



Spaces highlighted in yellow represent conference room and classroom spaces.



Spaces highlighted in blue represent atrium space.



Spaces highlighted in red represent restrooms.