

# International Center for Trauma Education and Care

**Winter 2025  
Newsletter**

Edited by:  
Kiersten Lechleitner



**Milestones since  
October 2019**



**Total People Trained**

**23914**



**Total Educators Trained**

**3294**



**Total Pastors Trained**

**1857**



**Total Countries Reached**

**21**

## From Our Executive Director

From the beginning of our Center, our interns have been vital partners in advancing trauma-aware education. Our alumni are now extending this mission across the globe.

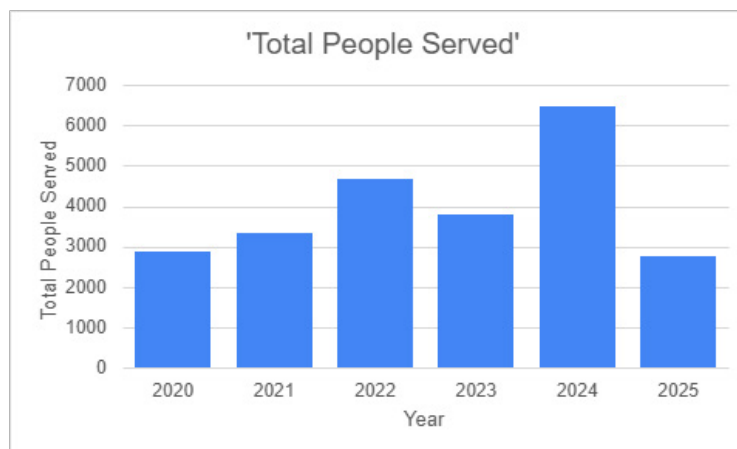
Through their international work with schools, local communities, and the church they bring trauma-aware practices to diverse cultural contexts. In doing so, they continue to challenge us to think globally, respond culturally, and remain grounded in both evidence and hope.

We are deeply grateful for the dedication of our alumni. Their growing international presence strengthens the Center's global impact. In this newsletter, we are excited to reconnect and put a spotlight the work our former interns are doing internationally as well as the ways our team continues to collaborate within the church and community.



*-Ingrid*

**Learn More**



# Former Interns Now Trained International Leaders

The Trauma Center realizes the importance of training up the next generation of leaders.

Ever since its beginning in 2019, their team has had interns work along side them.

These interns have expanded the impact of the Trauma Center worldwide as these interns have spread across the globe.

What are they up to now?

"64% people in the US will experience at least one adverse childhood experience before the age of 18. 1 in 6 report 4 or more."

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html>

June 29, 2023



**Sofia Bailey (2024-2025)**- I currently teach at Coralwood Adventist Academy in Edmonton, Alberta. By integrating strategies I learned as an education intern at the Trauma Center, I aim to cultivate a supportive and responsive environment where students feel seen, valued, and empowered to manage their emotions effectively.



**Tricia Handy (2024-2025)** - I am currently working on compiling an Annotated Bibliography of Trauma-Informed Resources of general information, theological support, philosophical foundations, K-12 and higher education. I'm also preparing to collect research data for my Master's thesis.



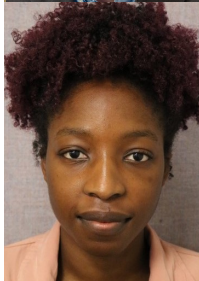
**Roen Higgins (2024-2025)** - Presently working at an anxiety and depression clinic as a clinical social worker in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.



**Hope Malabrigo (2021-2022)** - I currently work as a Mental Health Worker, where I provide therapeutic support to individuals who lack access to insurance or cannot afford private therapy. Serving the Halton Hills community in Ontario, I offer short-term, goal-oriented therapy to help clients address their mental health needs. In addition to one-on-one sessions, I collaborate with community partners to deliver workshops focused on building resilience and enhancing mindfulness skills.



**James Mello (2021-2022)** - I am the Children & Youth Discipleship Leader for South New Zealand Conference, based in Christchurch NZ.



**Naissa Ndiaye (22-23)**- I have been in Korea for 4 months now at Cheongju University . I'm currently learning Korean and the university language center,, before I start the social welfare and public policy program next year. Life in Korea has been fun so far , I'm learning a lot about the culture and mindset and I'm really looking forward to discovering more.



**Sarah Reidel (20-21)**- I work in Germany for the Bavarian SDA Conference as a Social Worker specializing in trauma and mental health. I am a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional–Level I (CCTP-I). My work includes providing individual therapy as well as psychoeducation through youth lessons, workshops, and presentations for pastors, church members, women, and youth, with a focus on understanding trauma and its impact. In addition, I serve as the designated contact person for the prevention of sexual violence.

# In the Community and Beyond

Contributors -  
Dustin Young

## Nebraska Pathfinder Training



**Announcing**  
our new **FREE**  
presentation  
module about  
**suicide**  
**awareness**  
hosted on the  
**Adventist**  
**Learning**  
**Community**. Just  
sign up for an  
account to get  
access.



One of my favorite aspects of being involved with trauma ed is the variety of partners we work with as well as the application of trauma-aware skills. It is not only the content, collaboration, and creation that can be exciting, but also the stories that are always shared about recovery and post-traumatic growth. Hope is present even in the middle of the storms raging in the world! Here are just a few ways we have been active the past few months: - Dr. Young

### EMS

It is always enjoyable to collaborate and connect with Emergency Medical providers and medical specialists especially when we are discussing how to navigate trauma awareness, co-regulation and care for providers in the process. This fall our Dr. Young was able to attend and present with the National Association of EMS Educators about the topic of Trauma-Responsive Course Design with a goal in supporting faculty and students as they learn about a wide array of medical care, how to respond to trauma all while navigating their lived experiences.

### Pathfinders:

Dr. Young had a chance to share some of the trauma-ed content with an amazing group of Pathfinder, TLT & Adventurer leaders in the Kansas-Nebraska conference. This is a great opportunity to collaborate while discussing the current needs of adventurers, pathfinders, TLTs, and leadership to increase the support for those who have experienced trauma within their lives.

The effects of childhood  
trauma on our health  
"cost an estimated...\$748  
billion annually in  
Bermuda, Canada, and the  
United States."

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html>

June 29, 2023

## Nebraska Pathfinder Training



# In the Classroom

Contributer -  
Charity Garcia



In partnership with the Department of Discipleship and the School of Education, Andrews University's International Center for Trauma Education and Care helped to host The Re-imagining Disciple Making October 16-18, 2025. This event, held both in-person and virtually, brought together leaders from the General Conference, North American Division, the South Pacific Division Institute for Discipleship, AU's new Discipleship Center, along with students, and scholars from around the world. Conference themes included: Disciple Making and Developmental Issues, Disciple Making and Trauma, and Disciple Making and Cultural Issues.

The Trauma Center's current leadership team (Ingrid Slikkers, Charity Garcia, Dustin Young, David Sedlacek) joined together with two alumni (Jose Bourget and Willis Byas) to lay a foundation for what trauma is and how it may impact, who it impacts, and present pathways toward trauma-informed disciple making.

Professors Slikkers and Garcia gave the keynote address on Trauma-Informed Disciple Making. Dustin Young presented on Discipling Those in Disrepair: Responding to Suicidal Desperation with Compassion and Faith. David Sedlacek presented his ground breaking research on Trauma's Impact on Pastoral Discipleship. Alumni Jose Bourget brought the perspective of trauma-informed chaplaincy, while Willis Byas shared about urban trauma-informed disciple-making. The presentations were well received and have lead to continued conversation with church administration.

The full conference, including presentations on disciple-making and trauma, will be available for free for anyone to learn from on the Adventist Learning Community website in the future.

"The impact of trauma can be overcome by trauma-informed approaches that build resiliency."

-The National Education Association

2019



# Pastoral Initiatives

Contributer-  
David Sedlacek  
Co- Presentor  
Beverly Sedlacek



Our pastors are not immune from trauma "the experience of physical abuse was consistently higher than the national average. "

Trauma and its Impact on Pastoral Leadership  
David Sedlacek, PhD, LMSW, CFLE

A young couple from Canada recently attended one of the JTW trainings that we recently conducted in the Northwest. They were both deeply moved by the experience of finding a safe place to process the pain of their trauma. During the follow up session, the woman shared that they talked all the way on the nine-hour drive home what they had experienced during the training. They shared their stories of childhood trauma more deeply than ever before. The young lady was in tears as she expressed her gratitude for the tools she received from the training.

An older man and his wife attended one of the JTW facilitator training events in the Northwest. They shared that they had been using the JTW materials for some time now and that they were cofacilitating two groups each week. One group was a face-to-face group at their church and the other was a zoom group that was attended by dozens of people from all over the world. They shared their own journey of addiction and recovery from alcohol and other substances. However, they found themselves being the "givers" in the meetings that they led each week, but had no meeting during which they could just be participants. I invited them to attend my weekly zoom meeting and they shared that they finally found a place that they could come and find support for their own continuing healing journey. - David Sedlacek

# International Center for Trauma Education and Care



## >>>>>> Trainings Offered:

Introduction to  
Trauma Awareness

Trauma Responsive

Trauma Trainings for  
Educators

Suicide Prevention  
Training

Trust Based Relational  
Intervention  
(TBRI)

And more....

## Our Mission:

Trauma occurs when a person experiences something that is perceived as physically or emotionally threatening. These experiences produce feelings of exceeding stress, terror, or helplessness, and can produce lasting effects upon the individual's mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Such trauma is prevalent, without regard for socio-economic, race, gender, or religion around the world.

The Center's main goal is to provide trauma-informed education and care to people and places around the globe. We model the compassion of Jesus by helping to prevent traumatization or re-traumatization while promoting long-term healing from trauma.

We offer trauma-informed awareness, education, and tools to support prevention and healing in organizations, schools, churches, and communities across the world acknowledging that the work of becoming trauma-informed is a continual journey.

## Request Training

