Missy Jenkins-Smith, a survivor of the 1997 shooting at Heath High School, to share her experience at the Arkansas Safe Schools Conference

June 26, 2015, Little Rock, AR—On December 1, 1997, a 14-year-old freshman boy who had been bullied for years walked into the Heath High School lobby in West Paducah, Kentucky, and randomly fired a .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol. Three students were killed. Five were injured. One of the critically injured girls was 15-year-old sophomore Missy Jenkins, who was left paralyzed from the chest down. But just hours after the shooting, Missy did the unthinkable: she forgave the shooter, accepted her disability and reclaimed her life.

Monday, June 29, Missy Jenkins-Smith will share her story with more than 300 Arkansas school personnel, administrators, and schools resource officers who are coming together to explore school safety issues and share ideas and resources that can be utilized to strengthen schools and communities throughout the State. The 11th Annual Arkansas Safe Schools Conference will kick off at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, June 29 with opening remarks by Governor Asa Hutchinson and will continue through Wednesday, July 1, at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock, AR. A variety of emerging issues and critical topics will be explored including bullying, suicide prevention, active shooter events, enhancing safety on school campuses and much more.

Missy is scheduled to speak Monday, June 29 at 10:45 a.m.

The conference is being sponsored by the Criminal Justice Institute, the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office, the Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas Department of Human Services, and the Arkansas Safe Schools Association.