Carly Posey
School Safety Advocate
“Anticipating the Unthinkable”

On December 14, 2012, a shooter entered Carly Posey’s son’s first grade classroom at Sandy Hook Elementary school. After shooting his teacher and a student, the shooter stopped to reload. Carly’s son ran out of the classroom to the fire station nearby. Her fourth-grade daughter remained hidden in an art room office at the Sandy Hook School. Her two other children were at the intermediate school in Newtown; in lockdown for 5 hours.

Carly tells her story of no one being prepared for what happened inside Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. She shares what went wrong and right on that day and the days and years to follow. She shares her perspective on the events and suggestions on how a school community can be proactive and better prepared for the unthinkable.

Carly shares her story to help prevent tragedies and to help individuals and communities prepare for and respond to traumatic events. She has worked and spoke to school communities around the country to help prepare and prevent the unthinkable. She was the executive director for Safe2Tell Colorado for two years and is currently working for Anderson Software, an anonymous tip reporting technology company. Carly proudly serves on the board of the “I Love U Guys” foundation and travels across the country to share her story to motivate and inspire others to be active in school safety. Carly, her husband Dave, and four children moved to Parker, Colorado on December 15, 2012 where she advocates for a proactive approach to school safety, both mentally and physically.
Dr. Victoria Calder
Former Executive Director (ret.)
Texas School Safety Center
“School Behavioral Threat Assessments”

Dr. Victoria Calder served as the Executive Director of the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University until her retirement in 2015. Under her leadership, the Center received numerous awards, including the 2013 FEMA/Homeland Security national award for Individual and Community Preparedness. As a member of the Texas Homeland Security Council, the Central Texas Counterterrorism Working Group, and the Texas Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium, she developed various strategic plans and products to strengthen safety and security in Texas. Dr. Calder obtained a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and is licensed in Texas as both a clinical psychologist and school psychologist. Her areas of specialization include emergency management, threat assessment, disaster behavioral health, and the psychology of terrorism.

Dr. Calder was in private practice as a psychologist for 16 years and also served in the Dallas Independent School District for 17 years in various administrative functions, including Emergency Management Coordinator and Manager of Leadership Development. Currently, Dr. Calder is a Lead Instructor at the FEMA/Homeland Security National Emergency Management Institute in Maryland, and a Master Instructor for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students. She is a frequent presenter and keynote speaker at national and international conferences. Dr. Calder also volunteers with the Red Cross as a member of the Mental Health Disaster Response Team, for whom she delivered on-site disaster response at the Louisiana flood event in September, 2016 and the Hurricane Harvey event in 2017.

Dr. Calder’s presentation, developed through the U.S. Department of Education's REMS/TA Center, introduces the key features of school behavioral threat assessments as identified in the Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative. As part of a comprehensive school emergency operations plan, it is important for school districts to understand how to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from critical incidents. Toward that aim, new information and guidance from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation will also be covered. The audience will learn about effective characteristics of threat assessments, along with guiding principles to develop school-based behavioral assessment teams and to formulate their approach in conducting threat assessments. Specialized topics will also be addressed, including social media and bystander considerations in assessing potential threats.
Patrick “Patcasso” Hunter  
“Innovation is Art”

Patrick Hunter, better known as “Patcasso,” is one of the nation’s leading live performance painters. His background as an artist and engineer makes him a STEM Ambassador and one that visits classrooms and boardrooms to challenge creative problem solving.

Thousands have seen him perform live turning a blank canvas into icons such as MLK, Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, Michael Jackson, Maya Angelou and Ray Charles in minutes to diverse genres of music. He has been featured at charity events for the Atlanta Braves, NBA, Sundance Film Festival and celebrities such as Ben Stein, Geena Davis, Hank Aaron and Snoop Dogg. A native of Detroit, Hunter holds a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from the University of Michigan.

Hunter’s presentation, Innovation is Art, will help participants to identify and rediscover creative confidence, re-think approaches at solving school safety challenges and challenge our notion of what is possible. From the Hieroglyphs in Egypt, the exploration of space, and even our iPhones, the sciences and the arts have always driven innovation. Using stories and painting, we will rediscover how to unlock our fullest potential and our childlike ability for creative problem solving and expression.

* Other Speakers will be added as information becomes available