

Wheelock College
200 The Riverway
Boston, Ma. 02115

October 5, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

I am honored to offer an enthusiastic recommendation for the Riverside Trauma Center training on *Suicide Assessment and Intervention for Mental Health Professionals*. As a clinician with 39 years experience working with victims and perpetrators of violence, an academic, author of two books in this field and a nationally-recognized trainer, I consider Riverside Trauma Center to be in the top 2% of model programs providing services to people who have experienced trauma and loss. Specifically, this training is quite simply the best I have ever been to. Every day I use what I learned there in my private practice.

As a military social worker who has been trained by the Center for Deployment Psychology and several Department of Defense Centers for Excellence, I have a lot to compare Riverside Trauma's Center training to. What makes it unique? First, the up-to-date research and evidence-based practice models help us leave with real-life interventions to help those we are honored to work with. I work with many college students who have made statements about wishing to die. My anxiety was greatly alleviated after taking the Riverside Trauma Center training and I consider myself more effective and empathic in my role. Second, the quality of the speakers is extraordinary. Although the workshop presents gold standard assessments and intervention models, each speaker brings in recent practice experience through their Psychological First Aid community interventions or their therapy experiences. They are humble, funny when appropriate and very attuned with what the audience may be interested in. Finally, this is an organization with a national reputation and international practice experience. They are the go-to for trauma informed training in New England and beyond. The trust, compassion and competence they have earned is magnified in this training. This is one of many trainings that we look to when we need information and clinical expertise.

Please feel free to call me at 617-699-1511 or email me at lsanford@wheelock.edu if I can provide a deeper recommendation. If you contract for the *Suicide Assessment and Intervention for Mental Health Professionals* training, I can assure you that you will be very pleased.

Sincerely,

Lynn Sanford, LICSW

Linda T. Sanford, LICSW
Visiting Professor of Trauma Informed Social Work
Wheelock College