

Ryan Travia, MEd

Director, Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Services
Harvard University

2007 NECHA PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Attributes of the NECHA President's Award recipients include creativity, innovation and dedication. They are known in their community and to others in college health for their caring and sharing. As the inaugural Director of Harvard University's Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Services (AODS), Ryan Travia was charged with creating a comprehensive and collaborative program to address alcohol and other drug use at Harvard.

Meeting this challenge head on, he has reached out to new colleagues, built relationships with key offices and developed a comprehensive Drug & Alcohol Peer Advisor (DAPA) training program for student leaders. His unique skill-set has enabled him to create large-scale institutional change and involve multiple constituencies.

A teacher by training, Ryan has reached out to several thousand students and staff with active workshops and presentations. Forging partnerships with countless departments, he has found creative ways to successfully lure impressive notables, including Nobel-prize winning chemist, Dudley Herschbach, who guest lectured on the "Chemistry of Beer Drinking".

In a relatively short period of time, Ryan has created a robust educational campaign, including web-based resources, online courses and assessments, social norms, and a series of novel trainings that consistently result in high levels of satisfaction and knowledge gains. His approach to Harvard's National Alcohol Screening Day has turned out hundreds of students each year, involving nearly three dozen University Health Services staff members. With his involvement in conducting the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT), Harvard University Health Services has been named the top screening site in the country among colleges and universities. Ryan has earned the respect of both students and staff from around the University and is well-respected by colleagues for his innovative approach to college student health and substance abuse prevention. With his genuine curiosity and sense of humor, he has built relationships in creating sustainable culture change on campus.

The New England College Health Association and Harvard University is proud to commemorate the fine work and outstanding service of Ryan Travia.