GSA Bill # 11

A bill authorizing REACH training for graduate and professional students on suicide prevention

**WHEREAS** the mission of the GSA is to promote the health and well-being of graduate students at UNL; and

**WHEREAS** many graduate and professional students at UNL struggle to maintain their mental health, and need better access to campus and community resources to improve mental health, and;

**WHEREAS** graduate and professional school can present unique mental health challenges, with a study published in Nature Biotechnology finding that graduate students are more than six times more likely than the general population to suffer from anxiety and depression[[1]](#footnote-1), and;

**WHEREAS** UNL’s Office of Student Affairs has begun to offer workshops to train gatekeepers to prevent suicide by recognizing warning signs, engaging with empathy, asking directly about suicide, communicating hope, and helping suicidal individuals to access care and treatment, and;

**WHEREAS** UNL’s graduate and professional students play unique roles as suicide prevention gatekeepers because of their dual roles as students and professionals within the university, and because they are often exposed to both undergraduate and graduate students at risk.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** that the GSA will use all of its communication channels, including e-mail lists and social media accounts, to advertise two REACH trainings scheduled for graduate students on East Campus taking place on January 23,2019 from 3:30 to 5pm in the Columbine Room of the Nebraska East Union and on April 2, 2019 from 3:30 to 5pm in the Goldenrod Room of the Nebraska East Union.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY ENACTED** that the GSA will sponsor a REACH training for graduate students on City Campus tentatively scheduled for 5:00 to 6:30 pm on January 29 and will use all of its communication channels to publicize this event.

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| Submitted by | President Reilly and Academic Affairs Chair Juritsch | DATE | 01/02/2019 |
| Referred to | Assembly | DATE | 01/02/2019 |
| Committee action | Not applicable | DATE |  |
| Floor action | Voted by majority | DATE | 01/08/2019 |
| Presidential Signature | JR | DATE | 01/08/2019 |

1. Evans, Teresa M., Lindsay Bira, Jazmin Beltran Gastelum, L. Todd Weiss, and Nathan L. Vanderford. "Evidence for a mental health crisis in graduate education." *Nature biotechnology* 36, no. 3 (2018): 282. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)