UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AWARDED
THE JEDCAMPUS SEAL FROM THE JED FOUNDATION

University of Southern California Among First Colleges and Universities in Nation to be Recognized for Comprehensive Mental Health Programming on Campus

LOS ANGELES, CA, OCTOBER 15, 2013— Today, the University of Southern California (USC) announced it has been awarded the JedCampus Seal from The Jed Foundation, a leading organization working to promote emotional health and prevent suicide among college and university students. The Seal recognizes schools that exhibit comprehensive mental health promotion and suicide prevention programming on campus. The Seal is part of the Foundation’s JedCampus program, the first nationwide program to facilitate a school’s ability to assess and enhance their mental health support system from a campus-wide perspective.

“Unfortunately, mental health issues continue to rise among young adults and college students with the top issues being anxiety and depression,” says Dr. Lawrence Neinstein, Executive Director of the USC Engemann Student Health Center. “I am very proud of our many campus resources that help in this multifaceted challenge. I am especially proud of our counseling services for their continued dedication in assisting our students with their mental health issues. It is very special to receive recognition from this highly respected, important organization. “

As part of the process to earn the Seal, the USC Engemann Student Health Center, took a voluntary, online self-assessment reviewing their campus mental health and suicide prevention programming. The Jed Foundation then compared the school’s responses to the recommended practices outlined in The Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention on College and University Campuses developed by The Jed Foundation and Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

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“This is truly a testament to all the hard work the professionals at the Engemann Student Health Center and Students Affairs provide to insure the health and safety of our students,” says Dr. Ilene Rosenstein, Director of Student Counseling Services at Engemann Student Health Center. “The various initiatives that were reviewed by the Jed Foundation show what a terrific collaborative process USC has created to help its students thrive. Student Counseling Services is just one of the many resources that a student can get support from.”

As part of this process, the USC Engemann Student Health Center received confidential feedback designed to help enhance its programming and resources. The Seal is valid for two years.

“We are thrilled to be able to announce the first schools in the nation to receive the JedCampus Seal. Schools like the University of Southern California have shown they employ a comprehensive, community-based approach to mental health care which will result in the identification of and care for more at-risk students,” said John MacPhee, Executive Director of The Jed Foundation. “We believe that the implementation of a campus-wide approach to mental health promotion will lead to safer, healthier campuses, and possibly greater student retention.”

The Jed Foundation only publicly recognizes those schools awarded the Seal. Names, survey responses and feedback reports of those schools that do not receive a Seal are confidential. If the self-assessment survey revealed gaps in programming, colleges and universities were invited to work closely with The Jed Foundation to address them. Those schools can reapply for the JedCampus Seal after one year.

Leading higher education and mental health professional organizations including the American College Counseling Association, American College Health Association, National Council on Community Behavioral Healthcare, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, among others, have provided statements of support for the JedCampus initiative.

For more information on JedCampus, visit www.jedcampus.org or www.jedcampus.org/seal-recipients.

About The University of Southern California
The University of Southern California is one of the world’s leading private research universities. An anchor institution in Los Angeles, a global center for arts, technology and international trade, USC enrolls more international students than any other U.S. university and offers extensive opportunities for internships and study abroad. With a strong tradition of integrating liberal and professional education, USC fosters a vibrant culture of public service and encourages students to cross academic as well as geographic boundaries in their pursuit of knowledge.

About The Jed Foundation
The Jed Foundation works to promote emotional health and prevent suicide among college students. Our programs include: JedCampus, a self-assessment and feedback program designed to help colleges enhance mental health programming; Ulifeline, an online mental health resource that gives students access to campus-specific resources and an anonymous mental health screener; Half of Us, the Peabody Award-winning campaign with mtvU, which uses online and on-air programming to decrease stigma and encourage help-seeking; Love is Louder, a movement to build connectedness and increase resiliency; Transition Year, an online resource aimed at helping to ensure the smooth, safe and healthy transition of teenagers from high school to college; and a portfolio of resources that helps campuses promote mental health and protect at-risk students. Learn more at www.jedfoundation.org.

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