CSUSB professor to speak at conference focusing on the dangers of screen time

PALM DESERT, Calif. – The 7th Annual Children and Families in Crisis Conference, presented by The Unforgettables Foundation, will take place at the Cal State San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus on Friday, March 20, from 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This year’s conference will focus on the dangers of screen time and what it is doing to our children.

The Children and Families in Crisis Conference series was created to help educate and equip the community, professionals, parents, educators and students in Southern California to better understand, identify and intervene in dangerous areas that affect the lives of children.

Anthony Silard, a CSUSB public administration professor and an award-winning scholar, author and international consultant, will discuss “Screened In - The Art of Living Free in the Digital Age.” Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of Silard’s latest book by the same title.

Opal Singleton, president and CEO of Million Kids, an organization dedicated to combating human trafficking, sex trafficking, child pornography and exploitation through education, training, prevention and supportive services, will speak about keeping kids safe from online predators.

NBC Palm Springs news anchor, Thalia Hayden, will moderate a panel discussion on “Combatting the Dangers of Screen Time” with Eduardo Rivera from the Palm Springs Unified
School District, Clark Morrow from the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, Maureen Forman from Jewish Family Service of the Desert and Marc Berkman from the Organization for Social Media Safety.

The conference will conclude at 1:30 p.m. with “Lights for Little Lives,” a touching remembrance ceremony and dove release on the campus’s main lawn in honor of children from across Riverside County who have died during the past year.

Event sponsors include The Auen Foundation and the H.N. & Frances C. Berger Foundation.

The conference registration fee of $20 includes lunch and a copy of Silard’s book. Scholarships are available. Tickets can be purchased online at www.unforgettables.org.

For more information about the conference, call (909) 335-1600 or email tevans@theunforgettables.com.

Prior conference topics, in partnership with Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital, the Barbara Sinatra Center, Operation Safehouse and Hazelden Betty Ford Center, include, “Childhood Death and Assistance to Grieving Families,” “Bullying and Teenage Suicide,” “Child Abuse in All Forms,” “Trapped by Addiction: Finding the Way Out,” “Life Saving Parenting: What Works and What Doesn’t” and “When Kids Kill Other Kids.”

The Unforgettables Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization based in Redlands, was founded in 1999 to help low income families give their children a dignified burial. The foundation provides support to families in Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in Southern California and in Clark County, Nevada.

The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus offers bachelor’s and master’s degrees, a doctorate in educational leadership, and teaching credentials and certificates. With more than 1,600 students, it is the Coachella Valley’s four-year public university and plays a vital role in educating and training the region’s growing population.

For more information about the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, contact Mike Singer in the Office of Strategic Communication at msinger@csusb.edu or (760) 341-2883, ext. 78107, or visit the campus website at pdc.csusb.edu.