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Lynette Paczkowski Writes “Support Responsibilities in an Age of Campus Suicide” for the New England Journal of Higher Education

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Lynette Paczkowski wrote “Support Responsibilities in an Age of Campus Suicide” for the *New England Journal of Higher Education*. Below is an excerpt from the article:

In 2004, then-University of New England President Sandra Featherman authored a piece for *NEJHE* (then called *Connection*) headlined “Emotional Rescue” and focusing on how a new generation of troubled college students was putting a strain on campus resources. Featherman, who died in April, wrote of colleges and universities scrambling to provide additional and better support services for students in need. She cited to a 2001 University of Pittsburgh survey in which 85% of schools reported increases in the severity of problems presenting at campus counseling centers over the preceding five years. Eight years later, a [NEJHE article](#) by Lasell College admission counselor Christopher M. Gray asked whether the proliferation of natural disasters and tragedies like the Sandy Hook mass shooting were creating a new category of emotionally vulnerable college students. Specifically, he suggested that it was higher education professionals’ “duty to aid these college-bound students as much as possible,” and urged the provision of counseling, knowledge and support. But moral duties and obligations aside, what is a higher education institution’s legal obligation to provide support services? And from a risk-management perspective, if the institution provides such services, what is its liability if the student’s mental health issues nevertheless consume him or her?

Continue reading “[Support Responsibilities in an Age of Campus Suicide](#)” on the *New England Journal of Higher Education* website.