

# INTRODUCTION



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THEHEARD

## MARGARET BERTRAM

It is our pleasure to welcome Margaret Bertram. Margaret Bertram is currently Assistant Director of Residence Life at Bard College. She holds a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from University of Connecticut and a B.A. in History from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.

After completing undergraduate studies, Margaret taught world history and American government at a high school near her hometown, but found her true calling in student affairs work. For the next two years, she was a Residence Hall Director and Campus Wellness Programs Coordinator at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. There she worked to create positive campus communities, advised two student wellness issues groups, and sat on a task force to improve mental health on campus. Since coming to University of Connecticut as a graduate student in 2008, Margaret has been involved with Suicide Prevention Week, alcohol and other drug education, and Active Minds at UConn. In 2009, she received the American College Personnel Association's Roberta Christie Essay Award for her essay, "Student Mental Health: Reframing the "Problem," which focused on creating more supportive communities on campus for students with mental health disorders. Margaret is with us today from The Heard, the nation's premier young adult mental health speakers bureau and a program of Active Minds. Members of the Heard are honored to act as representatives of the young adult mental health movement. As advocates and survivors, they convey messages of mental health with relevance and sincerity, and it is their primary goal to empower people to join them in changing the conversation about mental health. Join me in welcoming her.