

BULLYING BY TEXT AUSTIN INTERVIEWS FOR NATIONAL STORY ON CNN THIS MORNING

A 16-year-old girl was told by text to kill herself. Indiana authorities report that a 16-year-old high school student received several messages from schoolmates telling her she deserved a beating and suggesting that she should kill herself. Robin Meade reported this story this morning on HLN Morning Express. The Indiana Sheriff's Office is considering pressing charges. Here in Austin, girls say menacing texts and sexting are on the rise. GENaustin (The Girls Empowerment Network of Austin) can provide you with Austin girls who can speak first-hand about this problem in Austin schools. Contact us now, so we can alert the girls' teachers they will be pulled out of class today.

As a positive counter to the challenges girls face, GENaustin presents the Second Annual Girls Now! Conference, on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, at The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. In the wake of last year's successful turnout of more than 400 Middle School aged girls and 200 adults, this year's one-day event will again focus on Body Image, Bullying and Being a Girl. Dealing with sexting and cyber bullying will be one of many subjects covered at the Conference.

Over 30 organizations are participating in this year's Conference which features a range of workshops for girls (grades 5 -12), parents, educators and social workers. Topics for the dynamic, interactive workshops will include Internet safety, teen dating violence, diversity, self image, media literacy, parent/daughter relationships, physical health and wellness. This year, the Conference will also feature a continuing education course for teachers and social workers, as well as a Spanish track for parents. Tickets are \$20.00 with family, group discounts and scholarships available. This Conference is expected to sell out quickly. To Register visit www.genaustin.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009

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About GENaustin

GENaustin (The Girls Empowerment Network of Austin) fosters healthy self-esteem in girls by engaging them to explore and define their personal values and build skills that empower them with confidence and courage to make wise

choices. For more information about GENaustin, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization visit www.genaustin.org

About GENaustin's Girls NOW! Conference

The Conference is a one-day seminar, designed for girls grades 5-12, their parents and educators to explore the issues of Bullying, Body Image and Being a Girl through group presentations and hands-on interactive sessions led by nationally recognized experts that are designed to identify the problems and offer solutions. Visit www.genaustin.org