For Immediate Release

The Arizona Shooting: a Call to Action from President Obama and a Response from the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan

San Diego, CA, January 14, 2011 – The National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV) is issuing the following statements in response to the Jan. 8 shooting and President Obama’s speech in Tucson, AZ on Jan. 12.

“Now is the time to take action,” said Robert Geffner, Ph.D., co-chair of the NPEIV and President of the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma at Alliant International University. “As a nation we can no longer tolerate interpersonal violence. President Obama presented a challenge to all of us to work together to end violence. Violence is not just a political problem; violence is everyone’s problem, and it can’t be a silent nation-wide epidemic any longer. We need to reduce and eliminate it as a major public health problem in our country.”

Nearly two million people are victims of interpersonal violence each year. Experts from all disciplines and fields are coming together to address prevention, intervention, and treatment of violence and victimization through the NPEIV.

“We have to break down our silos,” said Jacquelyn White, Ph.D., co-chair of the NPEIV and Associate Dean of Research for the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. “Tragedies like the shooting in Arizona highlight not only a need to understand and address violence, but a need for all of us (researchers, practitioners, policy makers and individuals) to come together to work collectively to prevent and reduce violence. These tragic events underscore this country’s need for redoubled efforts to develop comprehensive approaches to prevention and intervention. Cooperation can powerfully affect the lives of young people in ways that take away their feelings of loneliness and despair while there is still time to help.”

The NPEIV was formed in 2008 to make the prevention of interpersonal violence a national priority and encourage healthy relationships by linking science, practice, policy, and advocacy. Nearly 200 organizations have come together so far to increase public awareness, enhance education, promote training and mentoring, unite grassroots and federal organizations, disseminate and translate information, and emphasize working together to build best practices.

Angela Rose, Founder of PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment, and Executive Committee member of the NPEIV said, “Being safe and free from violence in this country is an inalienable right. The tragedy in Tucson as well as the interpersonal violence that claims innocent lives needs to be stopped. I’m proud to help foster the efforts nationwide to strive for communities free from trauma, abuse, and brutality. This work will continue to cultivate an environment where everyone’s personal liberties are protected and our society is able to reach its fullest potential.”

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About NPEIV
The NPEIV is an overarching network of state, regional, and national organizations, agencies, and coalitions that embraces a multi-disciplinary and multicultural commitment to violence prevention across the lifespan. The organization is committed to reducing interpersonal violence and its consequences by linking science, practice, policy, and advocacy. Through its many partnerships and collaborations, the NPEIV is making great strides in pursuing this goal and achieving its mission of becoming an umbrella partnership of the many organizations, agencies, advocates, and victims working to end interpersonal violence in the US.

About Alliant International University
Alliant International University is a WASC accredited private, non-profit university that emphasizes the practical application of theory and research to prepare students for professional careers in psychology, education, business and management, forensics, and law. Founded in 1924 and headquartered in San Diego and San Francisco, Alliant has additional campuses in Los Angeles, Irvine, Fresno, Sacramento, and Mexico City with accredited programs in Hong Kong and Tokyo. For more details, visit www.Alliant.edu.

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