

Estela M. Rivero
Counseling Center

Sponsor: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Dates: September 30, 2010-September 29, 2011

Amount: \$99,998

**The STEPS Program: Expanding and Enhancing a Coordinated
Response to Student Suicide on a Large Public University Campus**

The University at Albany, State University of New York (UAlbany) has continued to meet the unique and complex needs of its undergraduate students who are at high risk for suicide through the enhancement of its existing Comprehensive Campus Suicide Prevention Model, entitled "The STEPS Program".

Specifically, we are focusing efforts on: 1) developing comprehensive, targeted, and coordinated training programs for campus personnel and trained paraprofessional student staff members to assist them in responding effectively to students with mental health and behavioral health problems that can lead to school failure, and 2) preparing informational materials addressing these risk factors for students, staff, faculty, and parents/families that outline warning signs of suicide, describe risk and protective factors, and identify appropriate actions to take when a student is in distress. The objectives of the UAlbany STEPS Program training and educational enhancements are consistent with the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (2004) recommendations and will: 1) reduce rates of student suicide, suicide attempts, and related mental/behavioral health problems that can lead to school failure and 2) increase the utilization of campus mental health and related primary care services by the students in most need of them.