

Caron's Student Assistance Program Presents...

# Brain Drain & Resiliency in Youth

## Brain Drain - Adolescents and Addiction: Why the Teen Brain is Vulnerable

Presenter: Amen Kush

Brain Drain is an engaging and highly interactive presentation that provides current, research-based information on various aspects of drug abuse and addiction. Participants will become familiar with specific parts of the brain and how they function, identify drugs of abuse and their specific impact on a developing brain, explain the concept of addiction and a young person's heightened vulnerability, dispel myths surrounding certain drugs, highlight the importance of remaining substance free, and provide examples of potential adolescent dialogue on where and who to reach out to for support.

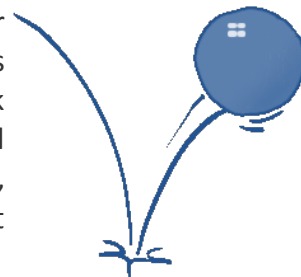


For well over 15 years, Amen Kush has channeled his passion for helping others into a career of service. Currently, as a Student Assistant Program Specialist with Caron Treatment Centers, Amen thrives as an engaging facilitator of Project CONNECT®, a nicotine cessation 8-week psycho-educational curriculum. In addition, Amen speaks to youth at school assemblies, implements a variety of substance abuse prevention education at private schools, as well as continues to expand Caron's services in the Metro Atlanta area. Amen is a native of Savannah, Georgia and a graduate of Georgia Southern University with a BA in History and International Studies. Before joining Caron, Amen was a teacher in Atlanta Public Schools for 6 years, a mentor, and a client manager for a non-profit organization that helped former inmates successfully transition back into society. Amen is also a published author. His new book, *Flicted*, debuted on February 5th, 2018.

## Resiliency in Youth: The Art of Bouncing Back

Presenter: Ursula Christie

During this interactive hands-on learning session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of strength-based approaches to facilitating and building resiliency skills in youth. The 40 Developmental Assets and Developmental Relationship Framework developed by The Search Institute, as well as Nan Henderson's Model of Resilience will be explored. Participants will engage in activities appropriate to implement with youth, parents, and families. Additionally, resources will be shared to actively support resiliency building in various community settings.



In addition to Ursula's 3 years with Caron's Student Assistance Program as the Regional Coordinator, she spent nearly 20 years as a well-regarded educator and instructional leader. Having received a Bachelor's in Education from the University of Arizona and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Kennesaw State University, Ursula brings a wealth of insight into student, teacher, parent, and administrator relationships. She has worked with students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and has facilitated staff development at all levels. She maintains a passion to support addiction treatment while fostering collaborative opportunities to guide youth toward healthy and productive living.

Visit us at: <https://www.caron.org/our-programs/student-assistance-program>

A leader in substance use prevention, Caron's Student Assistance Program (SAP) provides comprehensive, customizable drug, alcohol, and nicotine prevention services and healthy living programming designed to help students lead successful lives. By partnering with schools, parents, communities, and other concerned organizations, we're equipping students to achieve and thrive