

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

2025

April 8-9, 2025 | Ankeny, Iowa

Join us for two impactful days of discussions, insights, and empowerment as we commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) at DMACC. This event will feature experts who will shed light on **trauma, resilience, and recovery**.

First Responders' Wellness: A Conversation on Trauma

April 8 | 8:30AM-9:45AM | Bldg 5 Conference Center, DMACC Ankeny Campus

Presented by Clive Police Chief Mark Rehberg & Clive Fire Chief Clay Garcia

The Chiefs will lead a discussion about trauma and first responders, including what constitutes trauma; strategies for managing trauma; impacts of exposure to traumatic events on relationships, work performance, and mindset; and support programs for mental health and wellness.



Exposing Hidden Scars: Transforming Trauma into Triumph

April 9 | 1:00PM - 2:00PM | Bldg 5 Conference Center, DMACC Ankeny Campus

Featuring Cheyenne Hanson, Author & Douglas County, NE Deputy

Cheyenne Hanson is a survivor of 14 years of domestic and sexual violence. In her memoir, *Hidden Scars*, she shares her powerful journey from captivity to courage. Her story is a testament to resilience, survival, and reclaiming life after trauma.

For more details and the full schedule,
go to ncvrw.dmac.edu or scan the code below



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

2025

Agenda: Two Days of Activities at the Ankeny Campus

Tues, April 8, 2025		Wed, April 9, 2025	
<p>8:30-9:45 AM Opening Keynote Session (1A) "First Responders' Wellness: A Conversation on Trauma". Presenters: Chief Mark Rehberg, City of Clive Police Department, Chief Clay Garcia, City of Clive Fire Department</p> <p>10:00 - 11:15 AM Thematic Panel (2A) "Preventing Crime Together: Law Enforcement and Community Collaboration". Sgt. McGraw, Ankeny Police Department; Sgt. Martin, Polk County Sheriff's Office; Sgt. Parizek, Des Moines Police Department; Special Agent Hai Tran, Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation</p> <p>11:30-12:30 PM Session (3A) "Child Advocacy Centers and the Team Approach, How Working Together Helps People in Need, and Helps the Helpers: An Introduction". Presenter: Laura Christensen, Blank Children's STAR Center</p> <p>1:00-2:15 PM Session (4A) "Navigating Justice: Voices from Victim Services". Panelists: Ruth Thompson, Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services; Louise Alitz, Aging Resources of Central Iowa; Ramses Yerba, L.U.N.A.; John Gish, Iowa Department of Justice</p>	<p>8:15 - 9:30 AM Session (1B) "In Her Shoes: A Domestic Violence Simulation". Presenter: Lori Jensen., Children and Families of Iowa Domestic Violence Services</p> <p>11:30-12:45 PM Activity (3B) "Circle of Serenity: Mandala Drop-In Art Workshop," Kate Karwan Burgess, Photographer and Artist. Blg 5 by SAC.</p> <p>1:00 - 2:15 PM Speaker Series (4B) "From War to Wellness: A Journey of Resilience and Transformation," DMACC's War and the Human Experience Speaker Series. Speaker: Emma Dedic-Sakanovic, Iowa DOC 5th District and DMACC Criminal Justice program</p>	<p>8:30 - 9:30 AM Session (5A) "Strengthening Justice: Evidence-Based Approaches for Serving Victims"; Presenter: Shannon Marie Bogolin, Polk County Attorney's Office</p> <p>9:45 - 11:00 AM Session (6A) "Vicarious Trauma for First Responders" Presenter: Brenda-Bash Cooper, Iowa Department of Justice, Office of the Iowa Attorney General</p> <p>11:30 - 12:45 PM Activity (7B) "Circle of Serenity: Mandala Drop-In Art Workshop," Kate Karwan Burgess, Photographer and Artist. Blg 5 by SAC.</p> <p>11:30-12:45 PM Activity (7C) "Advocacy and Assistance Tabling Event". Approximately 10-15 non-governmental and governmental organizations to provide education and outreach materials in Bldg. 5 Student Center area</p> <p>1:00 - 2:00 PM Closing Keynote Session (8A) "Exposing Hidden Scars: Transforming Trauma into Triumph," Presenter/Author, Cheyenne Hanson. Bldg 5, live stream to other campuses/centers.</p> <p>2:00 - 2:30 PM Activity (9A) Author/Book Signing; Advocacy and Assistance Tabling</p> <p>2:45 - 3:45 PM Activity (10) "A Healing Bonfire". Location: Bldg. 5 Fountain on Promenade, provided by DMACC Fire Science program chair Brent Conklin. Presenter: Annie Wood, Des Moines Area Community College</p>	<p>8:15 - 9 AM Virtual Session (5B) "Exposing Hidden Scars: Transforming Trauma into Triumph," Presenter/author Cheyenne Hanson, virtual presentation for DMACC classes. Streamed from Bldg 6</p> <p>11:15 - 12:15 PM Session (7A) "Case Study: Application of Building Resilience and Identifying Vicarious Trauma," Presenter: Shannon Marie Bogolin, Polk County Attorney's Office</p> <p>11:30 - 12:30 PM Session (7D) Therapy Dog Visit, ARL. Bldg. 5 Student Center area.</p>

Daily: Student Showcase, 8:00 am – 2:30 pm; DMACC Libraries Story Walk “*Rain before Rainbows*”; DMACC’s Fashion Design installation “*What They Wore*,” and more! Free and open to the public.

Visit ncvrw.dmacc.edu for more information for activities across the district

From War to Wellness: A Journey of Resilience and Transformation

Sponsored by DMACC's War and the Human Experience Speaker Series



Emma Dedic-Sakanovic,

Iowa DOC 5th District and DMACC Criminal Justice program

During her talk, Emma will share her personal journey of surviving the war in Bosnia, navigating the criminal justice system as homicide survivor, and overcoming the challenges of living with Crohn's disease. Her story reflects resilience, the strength to persevere through adversity, and the power of transforming hardship into a tool for helping others.



Tuesday, April 8th, 1-2:15 pm

Ankeny Campus, Bldg. 5 Conference Center

Thursday, April 10th, 11:15 - 12:40 pm

Urban Campus, Bldg. 1, Room 142

Scan the Code

For more about
DMACC's War and the Human
Experience Speaker Series



For the full NCVRW schedule,
go to ncvrw.dmaccc.edu

Questions or Concerns?
Contact Samantha O'Hara
sjohara@dmacc.edu