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## Expert in bystander behavior calls actions in Penn State scandal 'disturbing'

**CHICAGO (Nov. 10)** - Mike Dilbeck, a national expert on bystander behavior, made the following statement today concerning the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State University:

*"The happenings this week, and especially last night, at Penn State are disturbing reminders of how much work we have to do to change bystander behavior. It is very disturbing for more passion to be shown for the firing of a coach than the rape of a child. The blatant disregard and lack of action for these heinous acts of sexual violence can no longer be tolerated because, in the end, this is not about football and this is not about a coach; this is about boys being sexually abused and the impact of actions – and inaction. After years of being bystanders and allowing continued criminal activity, last night was the first time that anyone at PSU showed any leadership and took appropriate actions. Unfortunately, many boys' lives have been forever impacted. The PSU trustees finally gave these boys the heroes they have been looking for."*

Mr. Dilbeck is founder of the RESPONSE ABILITY<sup>®</sup> Project, an organization that since 2008 has been dedicated to educating and empowering bystanders to confront antisocial behaviors like hazing, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual abuse and assault, bullying, discrimination and destructive behaviors. The project in January 2012 will launch the "Every|Day Hero<sup>™</sup> Campaign," an initiative that aims to empower the everyday hero in all of us. The campaign will enlist hundreds of thousands of people to take the Every|Day Hero Pledge:

*I pledge to make a difference for people, organizations and issues. I pledge to use my values as my compass, go beyond any barriers, and take actions to foster change. I pledge to live an extraordinary life and be an every|day hero.*

Mr. Dilbeck is available for interviews to discuss this tragedy and his campaign. To secure an interview with Mr. Dilbeck, please contact one of his media representatives listed above. To find out more about the RESPONSE ABILITY Project and the Every|Day Hero campaign, visit [www.raproject.org](http://www.raproject.org).