



## **Kognito Role-Play Training Simulation for High School Educators Listed in SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention**

*Kognito role-play training simulation entitled "AtRisk for High School Educators" has been listed the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention. In the simulation users assume the role of a high school teacher and engage in simulated role-play conversations with emotionally responsive student avatars exhibiting signs of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. The training has been adopted by several states including the Texas Department of Health Services and the New York State Department of Mental Health to provide training to more than 70,000 high school educators. A demo can be viewed at <http://kognito.com/atrisk>.*

New York, NY ([PRWEB](#)) March 2, 2011 -- Kognito's At-Risk for High School Educators, an online interactive suicide prevention program, has been listed in Section III of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention (SPRC/AFSP) Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention (BPR).

In At-Risk, users assume the role of a high school teacher and engage in simulated role-play conversations with emotionally responsive student avatars exhibiting signs of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. The virtual students are capable of visually and verbally expressing emotions in reaction to users' decisions during the conversation, effectively replicating real life interactions. In these virtual role-plays, users learn motivational interviewing techniques such as framing open-ended questions and using reflective listening to effectively broach the topic of psychological distress, motivate the at-risk student to seek help, and avoid common pitfalls, such as attempting to counsel the student or diagnose the problem. A narrated walkthrough of this program is available at [http://kognito.com/atrisk/product\\_highschool.html](http://kognito.com/atrisk/product_highschool.html).

Launched in September 2010, the At-Risk for High School Educators program has been adopted by several states including the Texas Department of Health Services and the New York State Department of Mental Health to provide training to more than 70,000 high school educators.

At-Risk for High School Educators is part of a suite of gatekeeper training simulations developed by Kognito and tailored to the needs of specific groups of learners, including university faculty, college students, families of returning veterans, and emergency department personnel. The version of At-Risk for University Faculty is currently in used by over 85 institutions nationwide and is also listed in BPR. A demo of the training for university faculty can be viewed by clicking on "demo" at <http://www.kognito.com/atrisk>.

"The addition of Kognito's At-Risk for High School Educators simulation to the SPRC/AFSP BPR means that mental health and education agencies have a new and innovative tool in their toolbox for helping teens who are exhibiting signs psychological distress or thoughts of suicide," said Ron Goldman, CEO of Kognito. "We are in the process of developing several new versions of the At-Risk training in response to requests from state and federal agencies as well as the healthcare industry. The expansion of the At-Risk suite supports Kognito's goal of focusing the application of its simulations and game technology for developing learners' skills for managing challenging conversations in the areas of health and behavioral health," Goldman added.

Practices listed in Section III of the BPR address specific objectives of the National Strategy for Suicide



Prevention and their content has been reviewed by a panel of suicide prevention experts for accuracy, safety, likelihood of meeting goals and objectives, and adherence to prevention program guidelines. You can find a fact sheet describing the program at <http://www2.sprc.org/sites/sprc.org/files/AtRiskHighSchool.pdf>. For additional information about At-Risk, visit <http://www.kognito.com/atrisk> or contact Kognito at 212-675-9234 or [info\(at\)kognito\(dot\)com](mailto:info(at)kognito(dot)com).

#### About Kognito

Kognito is an award-winning developer of online role-playing simulations, where users develop interpersonal skills and learn to effectively manage challenging conversations in the areas of health and behavioral health. Simulations are built using Kognito's proprietary Human Interaction Simulation Platform™ which is based on research in social cognition, neuroscience, and motivational interviewing. In these simulations, learners enter virtual environments, engage in practice conversations with emotionally responsive avatars, and receive personalized feedback. Kognito's flagship product line, At-Risk, is successfully used by over 75 academic institutions, and several states and federal agencies to train teachers, students, families of veterans, and health providers to recognize and refer those exhibiting signs of psychological distress, thoughts of suicide, and PTSD. Headquartered in New York City, the company has received numerous prestigious awards including the 2009 Training Product of the Year and the 2007 and 2008 Learning Leader Awards. For more information, visit <http://www.kognito.com>.

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