

Dear Concerned Parents and Students,

I address you today with great appreciation for your support and belief in the SEMS Foundation's mission to save the lives of the 1,400 students who die every year because of alcohol related emergencies on college campuses. Within the last decade, alcohol related deaths have been on the rise to what we could now consider to be epidemic proportions. This disheartening truth is reflexive of our American culture – the culture of excess. I created the SEMS program as a student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, with the idea that the only way to change culture is to create activism from the source – the students.

As President of the SEMS Foundation, I am proud to represent the hundreds of students who have dedicated their service to our life saving program as volunteers with our locally established programs. These students are the heart of the solution and have allowed the SEMS concept to be actualized. Through their leadership, volunteerism, and passion the SEMS program has become more than local activism at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The staff of the SEMS Foundation consists of current and past students who have been involved with local SEMS programs. I believe that our success is owed to the very fact that we are a fully peer driven initiative. Many of our staff members have dedicated their service as volunteers, which have allowed us to reach fruition as a non-profit public charity. I have never worked with such passionate individuals and am humbled to lead them as their President.

As I reflect, I have come to an understanding that our mission was and is more than just a good idea. We have formulated the most practical, innovative, and effective peer programming that universities have to offer. The SEMS Foundation is leading the national effort to save the lives of young adults across the country. Our recent efforts to expand the program have produced other chapters at the University of Maryland and the University of Southern California with many others to be established this upcoming school year.

The SEMS program is truly cutting edge. We are the first program in the country that actually takes EMTs out of the ambulance and places them at scenes of risk. Furthermore, by combining campus wide education in emergency preparedness with CPR and First Aid, we have effectively covered the full spectrum of risk from the dormitories to closed fraternal hazing events.

The SEMS Foundation is committed to providing the most premier service possible. Through your support and commitment we will be able to protect and save the lives of countless young adults across the country.

The time is now. Too many students have lost their lives. As peers we have the ability to save each other's life, which gives us the responsibility to act. We are "peers saving peers at the point of decision."

Sincerely,  
Anthony Rossi  
President  
SEMS Foundation