

Mr. Rick Shaw  
Awareity

Over 30 years ago Rick Shaw, CEO, Founder, and Connecting the Dots Officer of Awareity began to see the dangerous disconnects and gaps Threat Assessment Teams (TATs) were and would be facing. He saw disconnects in ongoing awareness, accountability, security, measurability, sustainability, preventability, and more. He knew conventional controls were not, and would not, equip Assessment Teams (threat, community, behavior, risk, prevention, etc.) with the right tools to connect the dots so they could intervene and prevent preventable incidents, liabilities, and tragedies before they occurred.

As incidents involving global terrorism, homegrown terrorism, attacks on law enforcement, workplace violence, drugs, gangs, domestic, social media, and other threats continue to increase, Rick knew it was time to move beyond the “status quo” and conventional controls so he took the lead and created the Community-wide Connecting the Dots Platform that numerous organizations, communities, and agencies across the United States use to prevent incidents, liabilities, and tragedies every day.

With over 10,000 hours of research and investigation to his credit, Rick is a prevention subject matter expert who continues to push the boundaries of risk mitigation, threat assessment, and prevention by speaking internationally, writing professional articles, and sharing his vision for a safer world.

**Rick’s Story**

My story starts when I was in 6th grade where I went to school in the same building as the special needs students. One of the special needs girls – MJ – was constantly being bullied and teased by other students and on numerous occasions, the others would get MJ so riled up she would have a seizure. I remember how sad it was to see MJ have a seizure and then wake up from her seizure so scared and afraid because she did not know where she was.

Now, I was a little guy back then but I decided that I needed to step up and do the right thing and prevent the other students from bullying and teasing MJ. From that point on, whenever I saw other students bullying and teasing MJ, I would hang out with her and tell the others to move along. After a while, a couple of my friends joined in and then a teacher got involved too and MJ’s experience at school completely changed with no bullying, no teasing, and no seizures.

This was my first experience with what I now call a “Return on Prevention”. The culture changed, the students were much happier, teachers were happier, and MJ was much happier and she even called me her boyfriend and chased me around to give me hugs!

But the “Return on Prevention” didn’t stop there… for the next 6 years of school, when I met MJ in the hallways of school, we would smile or wave or say hi… the “Return on Prevention” continued.

What’s even more amazing was the “Return on Prevention” didn’t stop there… 31 years later at our 25th Class Reunion, I walked into the reunion and there was MJ! She got that big smile on her face that I remembered and still gave those great hugs, and then she introduced me to her husband! The “Return on Prevention” continued, and to my surprise, about a year after the reunion, I received a digital birthday card from MJ via the class reunion website. The “Return on Prevention” continues…

**Speaking Experience**

Rick Shaw is a sought-after expert and professional speaker in the areas of risk prevention, school safety, corporate compliance, and cyber security. He has been speaking both nationally and internationally for over 10 years for many organizations and associations such as:

* NextGen School Safety Conference (since 2014)
* Breakout sessions as well as half-day pre-conference sessions.
* Keynote Speaker (2019)
* Developmental Resources Conferences – Various (since 2012)
* FSHRMPS Annual Conference
* Plenary Session (2019)
* Breakout Session (2020)
* Indiana Sheriff’s Association
* Keynote Speaker (2019)
* National Sheriff’s Association
* Keynote Speaker (2019)
* Transcending Boundaries Together
* Keynote Speaker (2018)
* ASIS International
* Pre-conference half-day sessions and School Council sessions.
* EAPA Conference
* SCCE National Ethics and Corporate Compliance Conference
* Pan-Pacific Business Association International Conference
* Chair of the Risk and Bullying Management Group.
* DCJS – Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Forum
* COV Information Security Conference
* Alliance for Innovation National Conference
* ASSE – Illinois Chapter
* Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

Publication Information

* Shaw, R. The First Preventers Playbook: How To Intervene, Disrupt, And Prevent Tragedy Before It Strikes. Advantage Media Group, 2020.
* ASIS Professional Standards Board. Security Awareness Standard (ASIS SA-2020). ASIS Professional Standards Board, 2020.
* Contributing Author.
* Fennelly, L., Perry, M. The Handbook for School Safety and Security 1st Edition. Butterworth-Heinemann, 2014.
* Chapter author.
* Somerson, I. The Art and Science of Security Risk Assessment. ASIS International, 2009.
* Contributing author.
* Shaw, R. Community Preventing & First Preventers: Completely Changing How Communities and Organizations Prevent. Self-published, 2017.
* Various other magazines, online, and general articles.

**Memberships & Awards**

* ATAP: Founding member of the Great Plains ATAP Chapter (2009)
* ASIS: National Member, sits on the School Safety & Security Council
* Liberty Mutual: Responsibility Leader
* Risk & Insurance: Risk Innovator