



Heather's journey to becoming a psychologist defied the traditional mold, forging a path through two decades on the front lines of crisis and trauma. This extensive real-world experience became the bedrock of her expertise, long before she held a formal license. For 14 formative years, Heather directed special victim programs at CSP Victim Assistance Programs, tackling the complex realities of homicide, sexual assault, gangs, and domestic violence. Her proactive approach led to the creation of the CSP Crisis Response Team in 2003, a direct response to the urgent needs following an active shooter event in Irvine, CA.

As the driving force behind the Crisis Response Team, Heather was a constant presence during countless critical incidents, offering immediate support 24/7. Her unwavering commitment provided vital trauma mitigation for victims, witnesses, and entire communities grappling with homicides, suicides, drownings, fatal accidents, and workplace violence. The 2011 mass casualty at Salon Meritage in Seal Beach, CA, stands as a stark reminder of her crucial role in times of profound crisis.

In 2014, Heather brought her unique blend of experience and leadership to the Orange County Sheriff's Department as their Regional Peer Support Coordinator. She built and guided a team of over 100 individuals, delivered essential crisis counseling, and championed an agency-wide Emotional Wellness Campaign.

Recognizing the power of collaboration, she co-founded the Orange County Association of Peer Supporters (OCAPS), fostering a network of mutual aid among Southern California law enforcement and fire departments. Her vision extended beyond county

lines as she became a key figure in assisting police and fire agencies across the state in developing and sustaining their own peer support programs.

A turning point came in 2012 when an Orange County Commander's encouragement sparked a return to academia. Driven by a desire to amplify her impact on the first responder community, Heather pursued her doctorate, dedicating over 3000 pre- and post-doctoral clinical hours to serving public safety personnel and their families. This dedication culminated in the 2019 launch of Premier First Responder Psychological Services, an organization committed to providing specialized and exceptional services to those who dedicate their lives to protecting and serving others.