

Vision
project & **SCMA**

present

G is for Gun

The Arming of America's Teachers

February 11, 2020 – 7:00pm

The Media Theater

School of Communication, Media & the Arts

Sacred Heart University

5151 Park Ave

Fairfield, CT



A film by Kate Way & Julie Akeret

By all accounts, the brutal shooting of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT in December of 2012 was a turning point in much of the national psyche. It galvanized both sides of the gun debate to take new action, and it changed the way schools thought about security and safety. The gun divide in the United States has been amplified with each mass murder, and school security debates have reached a boiling point since the massacre in Parkland, Florida. While arguments over arming teachers are making their way further into the mainstream, many individuals and schools around the nation have already decided to take matters into their own hands by arming faculty and staff. Shockingly, no one official federal or state body has been keeping count of how many schools across the nation have armed staff, and in many communities, even the parents and the general public remained uninformed that it is happening.

G is for Gun: The Arming of America's Teachers goes beyond building awareness. It is about empowering the public to make and participate in decisions affecting their schools, their communities, and the larger society in which they live. The debate over the arming of public school employees is emblematic of many of the political and cultural divides so pronounced in America today. Encompassing highly-charged and critical debates about gun legislation; the provision of robust social services; the shape and purpose of public education; issues of race, class, gender, and security; and the role of local, state, and federal powers in making change; this issue reflects a multitude of social issues that divide us.



The film and accompanying interactive website help to make sense of the larger social, political, and historical context that has given rise to school shootings and to the growing response with arms. Often boiled down to arguments over “more guns” or “fewer guns,” the mainstream debate can sometimes obscure the larger social questions at the root of this violence and our response to it as a society. We hope that this project will provide a forum for dialogue about the deeper issues at stake in the arming of America’s teachers.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion focusing on the issue.

PANELISTS

Kate Way - Director, *G is for Gun*; Michael P. Alfano, Ph.D. - Dean, Isabelle Farrington College of Education; Stephen J. Lilley, Ph.D. – Chairman, Department of Sociology; Richard Falco, Coordinator of Multimedia Journalism, School of Communication, Media and the Arts, & President of Vision Project