



# Building Medication Literacy

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SCHOOL OF  
PHARMACY

## BACKGROUND

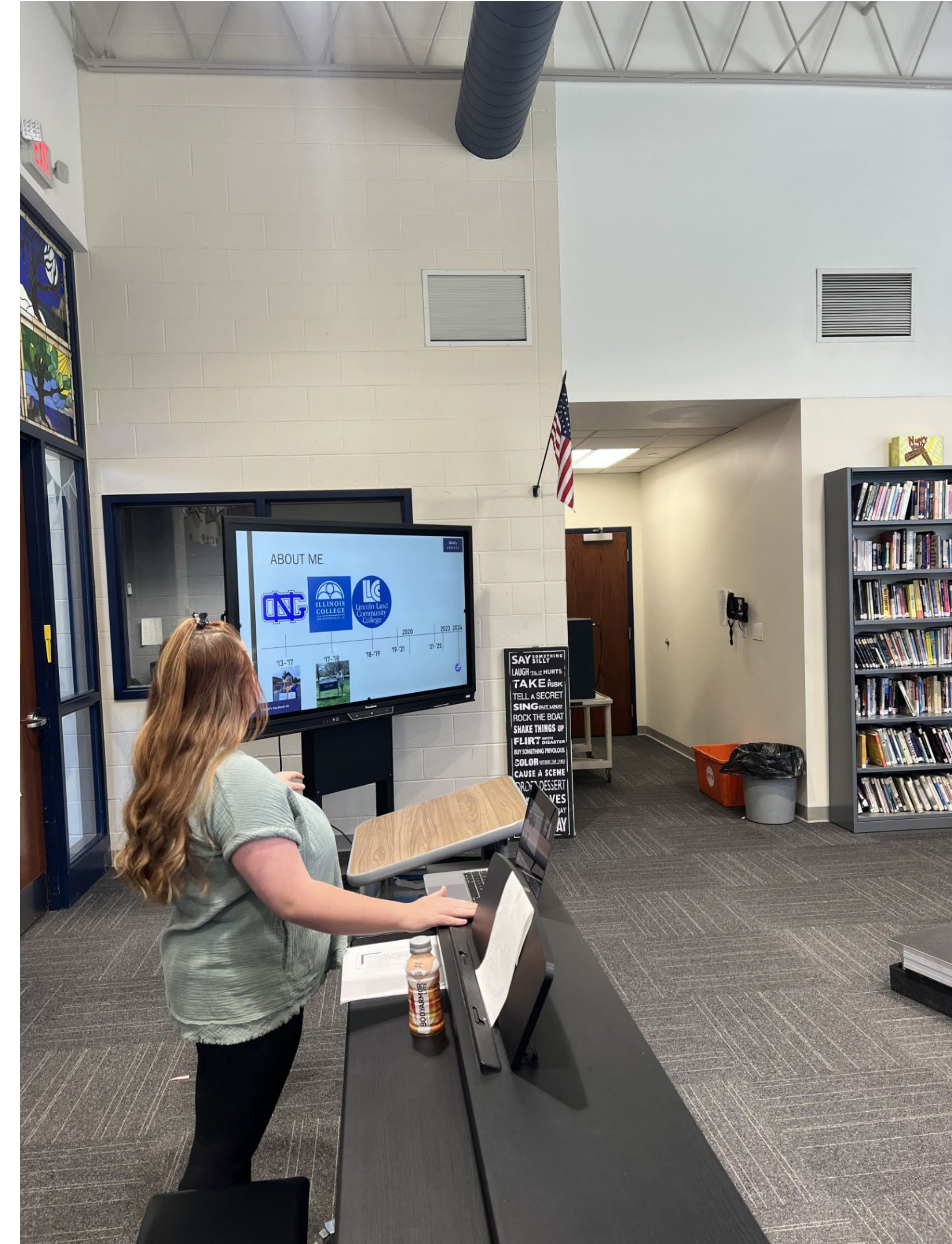
- Substance abuse among adolescents is a major public health issue
- Adolescents are faced with decisions including experimenting with different substances
- Serious risks including accidental overdose, addiction, death, and more are presented
- Adolescents have a knowledge gap in medication literacy
- This project is meant to help bridge the gap and provide resources needed to make mature, educated decisions

## METHODS

- Educational materials including a PowerPoint, myth or fact handout, and Kahoot quiz were created
- PowerPoint covers medication sharing, accidental overdose, medication disposal, and resources for substance abuse treatment
- The materials were compiled and shared with local school districts to be incorporated into current curriculum
- I presented the information to my local high school during a "Meet Somebody Monday" session with positive feedback

## RESULTS

- Presented to students at North Greene High School
- Students received the information very well (engaged, attentive, responsive)
- Guidance counselor provided positive feedback about presentation
- Offered Q&A session and received questions pertaining to information presented
  - "Why can we not flush old medication down the toilet?"
  - "Where do fake medications come from?"
- Students unable to identify fake medications with confidence
- Students thanked me for providing them with information they were otherwise not given in school



## LESSONS LEARNED

- No permission slips, so no immediate contact with people ≤18 years old
- Not being able to do any pre- or post-survey questions with the students
- Offering the students a "quiz" before and after would have given more insight to what they already knew and if the materials were presented appropriately
- A pre-survey could have allowed me to better address the knowledge gaps to expand their medication literacy

## FUTURE PLANS

- Present to larger age group
- Change information to be appropriate for challenges at that time

## CONCLUSION

- Substance abuse/misuse continues to affect all communities
- All age groups are impacted, but young adults are the most vulnerable and faced with the most peer pressure
- Adolescents are not being provided the resources and education necessary to overcome and divert this issue
- Communities will benefit from providing better education to people of all age groups about medication literacy