

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brooke Axtell, co- performer with Katy Perry at this year’s Grammys, set to perform at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Association Against Sexual Assault conference**

**Austin, TX** – This year’s Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) Annual Conference opens with a spoken word performance by Brooke Axtell. Brooke captured the nation with her opening performance at the Grammy’s for Katy Perry, prefaced with President Obama’s plea for ending sexual and domestic violence. “Sexual assault is a devastating crime and society’s misunderstanding can unintentionally impede healing for survivors. The positive attention from the White House, NFL, and other high profile mediums is long overdue” says Brooke Axtell.

The conference brings together the various institutions, agencies, and allies working to end sexual violence in Texas. This year’s conference theme “Communities in Action: Survivors and Allies for a Healthy Texas” features workshops representing a variety of perspectives including intervention advocates, criminal justice personnel, forensic nurses, military personnel, university officials, and social justice allies. “Our needs may be specific to our role yet there is wisdom in learning in an environment that draws upon the experiences, perspectives, and strengths of the broadest range of participants” says Annette Burrhus-Clay, Executive Director at TAASA.

The TAASA Conference kicks off on Monday, March 2nd, 2015 at 8:30 am with a performance by Brooke Axtell and a keynote address by Martha Ramos Duffer, a licensed clinical psychologist, exploring the role of self-care and agency sustainability. Please visit [www.taasaconference.org](http://www.taasaconference.org) for detailed conference information.

**2015 TAASA Annual Conference - March 1 – 5, 2015**

- Opening begins at 8:30 am - March 1, 2015
- The Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark - 4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX 78744

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**The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)** is the statewide organization committed to ending sexual violence in Texas. A non-profit educational and advocacy organization based in Austin, TAASA member agencies comprise a statewide network of more than 80 crisis centers that serve rural as well as metropolitan areas. Founded in 1982, the agency has a strong record of success in community education, legal services, youth outreach, law enforcement training, legislative advocacy, and curricula and materials development. Additional information about TAASA can be found at [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org).

