

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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April 2018



Counselor Spotlight: Royce Hooks



How important is it really to do an internship before applying for a job? Do students need to get the hands-on experience, or is it a matter of just landing the right job?

During the school year, students may feel overwhelmed with coursework, sports, or co-curricular activities that keep them extremely busy while leaving no time to think of doing an internship or a job. Many students may also feel that they are caught in a bind since they need to make money to pay for their expenses but they can only find unpaid internships in their field.

Internships are a proven way to gain relevant knowledge, skills, and experience while establishing important connections in the field. Internships are also a way to get your feet wet and find out if a specific field is something you could see yourself doing full time. Internships may be completed during the summer throughout a student's high school career.

Traditionally, unpaid internships were easier for students to find, but they often posed problems for students who needed to make money over the summer. [Louisiana Jump Start Summers](#) programs address this problem by providing students the opportunity to receive a summer stipend as they earn industry-based credentials and academic credits in their areas of career interest.

Employers love to see volunteer experiences on a student's resume. Volunteering shows commitment to causes and certain values that are intrinsic to the individuals who have participated in these types of experiences. Employers look for employees who are publicly engaged and who take an interest in community service and in doing good work.

Internships and volunteer experiences make candidates more competitive in the job market. This exposure to and experience in the field provide students the opportunity to see if that particular

career field is the right one for them. No matter what opportunities they engage in, it's important to maintain professionalism and take on the individual responsibility that is required.

By doing a great job and completing more than what is required, students will be creating a great impression that could lead to reference letter or future job offer.

Internships are a great way to learn the ropes. Even if students find themselves filing or making coffee, they are learning about the field. Let's gear up for summer internships!

Royce A. Hooks M.Ed, PLPC
Professional School Counselor
Edna Karr High School

Professional Development

Teacher Leader Summit

The [2018 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place May 30 through June 1, 2018, at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

Registration will be open April 23 through May 18, and seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registrants should coordinate with their Teacher Leader Coordinator if the school system is covering travel expenses. Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to the 2018 Summit.

ASCA Annual Conference

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Annual Conference provides attendees with the chance to earn CEUs, contact hours, and/or graduate credit. This year's conference is in Los Angeles from July 14 through 17, 2018. Please visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

LCA Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for the [Louisiana Counseling Association \(LCA\) Annual Conference](#) at the Baton Rouge Crown Plaza hotel October 7-9, 2018. Presenters from the Louisiana School Counseling Association (LSCA) will be hosting ten 90-minute content sessions at the conference.

Play Therapy Summer Intensive

[Cognitive Solutions](#) is offering a summer intensive on play therapy. All workshops are Monday and Thursday evenings in June. Participants will earn 20 continuing education units for completing the program.

Please email CognitiveSolutionsLLC3@gmail.com for more information.

Resources for School Testing Coordinators

Please share this information with the testing coordinator in your school.

Assessment Resources

- The [April Quick Reference for Test Coordinators](#) has LEAP 2025, LEAP 360, LEAP Connect, and ELPT updates and reminders.
- A [Schedule of Events](#) for ACT and WorkKeys is located on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.

- The [LEAP 2025 Accommodations and Accessibility Features User Guide](#) has been updated and posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

Please email assessment@la.gov for support.

Advanced Placement (AP) Reminders

AP coordinators should review their school's online [College Board account](#) to verify all orders.

- April 20 is the final deadline to order exams.
- [Testing](#) starts the week of May 7.

Please review the [AP Coordinator Annual Calendar and Deadlines](#) for important dates. For more information, please contact the College Board at 877-274-6474 or submit an inquiry using the [AP Services Form](#).

High School News

Diploma Update

Diploma orders have been processed and are being shipped by state printing. All orders should be shipped no later than April 25. Please notify jumpstart@la.gov if you have not received your diplomas by that time.

Student Success Stories

The Department is looking for student success stories. Do you know a student who has earned a Jump Start credential and put it to work? Have you worked with students who never thought of going to college, but now are because they completed FAFSA? We want to honor their stories and inspire others.

Please email doecommunications@la.gov to start the conversation.

Revised LOSFA Consent Form

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) recently changed the wording on the [consent form](#) to reflect that students and parents access student data through the Student Hub instead of the Louisiana Award System. Please begin using this form as soon as possible, and replace any current paper copies you have. Students in grades 8 through 12 who have already completed a form **do not** have to fill out a new one unless their consent has status changed.

Please email Rhonda.Bridevaux@la.gov for more information.

Regional Financial Aid News

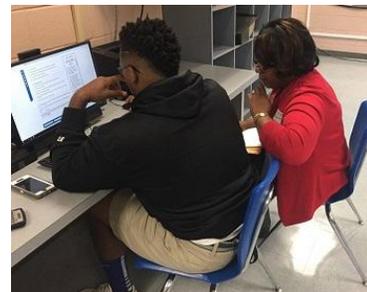
Spotlight: West St. John High School

West St. John High School is one of the top Louisiana schools in FAFSA submissions!

Parents and students have been advised on graduation requirements for 2018 since registration in the Summer of 2017.

West St. John, which Principal Claude Hill describes as a close-knit community, sponsored several events throughout the year to encourage seniors to complete their financial aid requirements.

- Parent FAFSA Day for parents to come to school with students in conjunction with LAGearUp
- Breakfast for seniors who have completed FAFSA by a December deadline implemented by Principal



Pictured: Student Brett Bailey and his mother Robin Bailey during Parent FAFSA Day

- One-on-one assistance from counselor and mentor teacher
- Phone calls from principal and counselor to motivate parents to meet financial aid requirements during the fall semester

Congratulations to Counselor Dr. Veta Parker and the entire West St. John community!

Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events

The [LDOE Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events](#) is a great way to announce your upcoming financial aid events. Please send the name, date, time, specific location, and a brief description to LDEFinancialAid@la.gov.

FAFSA Completion Support

Are there seniors in your school who have not met their financial aid requirement for graduation?

Would you like assistance from a state agency?

To request a representative to assist students and parents with completing FAFSA at your financial aid planning events, please try any or all of the following:

- email breanna.paul@la.gov or sabrina.johnson2@la.gov at the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA);
- complete the Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA) [FAFSA Completion Event Request Form](#); and/or
- email The Louisiana Department of Education at ldefinancialaid@la.gov.

Have you received help from your local community college or university?

The financial aid departments at your local colleges and universities will also assist with financial aid planning events. Contact your nearest postsecondary institution for more information.

Have you tried Frank?

The [Frank FAFSA](#) online tool is a quick, convenient way fill out the application with students and parents.

Last Chance Drawings for \$1000

Do your graduating seniors know they can win **\$1000 for completing the FAFSA?**

The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) offers \$10,000 in scholarships each year through its FAFSA Completion scholarship campaign and will be drawing for the awards two more times this academic year--April 30 and May 31, 2018. The [award guidelines](#) are located on the [Lela online registration page](#).

Lela is a nonprofit resource for FAFSA completion and college access. Please visit [Ask Lela](#) for more information.

FAFSA Resources

- [FAFSA Verification Resource](#) from the Cowen Institute
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) from [Federal Student Aid](#) and the [LDOE](#)
- [FAFSA for Students with Non-Traditional Needs](#) from the Cowen Institute
- [Completion Ideas](#) from the LDOE

LCDA Membership

Career counseling, career coaching, career advising, placement specialists, job coaches, life coaches, and even career and technical education specialists: you have probably heard these terms and many more. In some cases, the individuals practicing and working under these different titles may not hold a counseling degree, yet the theories that serve as the foundation for these roles are grounded in the counseling profession.

The Louisiana Career Development Association (LCDA) is committed to serving all individuals engaged in career development activities. If you are interested in career counseling or if you find yourself responsible for implementing career activities within your school, consider joining LCDA, a division of the Louisiana Counseling Association and a state chapter of the National Career Development Association. Membership is now open to individuals holding a variety of educational backgrounds including teaching, business, and counseling.

Please visit the [LCDA website](#) or email 2016lcda@gmail.com for more information.

Jump Start Updates

Jump Start Virtual Workplace Experience Webinar

The new Virtual Workplace Experience II (VWE II) course will be available for the 2018-2019 school year. VWE II enables students to explore career opportunities in Louisiana's high-demand industry sectors - no matter where they live - while generating thousands of dollars in CDF funds for their districts and schools. VWE II uses virtual mentor interactions via Nepris and project-based learning exercises to help students master key workplace behaviors and communication skills.

A [one-page description of VWE II](#) and the [index of course instruction resources](#) are available in the All Things Jump Start Portal.

A VWE II webinar will be held on **Tuesday, April 24 at 4:00 p.m.**

To join the webinar, go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/vweii2018/>

Coming soon to the [All Things Jump Start](#) web portal!

- Updates to the Jump Start Graduation pathways master spreadsheet
- Additions to Jump Start initiatives
- Revised fact sheets

Super Summer Institute (SSI) 2018

Registration for the **2018 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI)** opened on March 26 and will close on May 1. Sessions for basic and advanced statewide credentials will be offered at multiple locations and dates.

- June 4-8: [Northwest \(Bossier City\)](#)
- June 11-15: [Bayou \(Lockport\)](#) and [Southwest \(Lake Charles\)](#)
- July 16-20: [Acadiana \(Lafayette\)](#), [Capital \(Gonzales and Livingston\)](#)
- July 23-27: [Northwest Louisiana \(Bossier City\)](#) and [Operation Spark \(New Orleans\)](#)
- May 1-July 20: [National EMS Academy \(Lafayette\)](#) - This site has online training sessions that begin May 1. Registration for training at this site will close April 20. On-site training will be July 9 - 20

The Department will pay training costs and provide lunch for educators attending SSI. School Systems are responsible for all travel expenses, textbooks and a nominal registration fee (\$250/session) for which School Systems may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2017-2018 Carl Perkins Funds.

Schools Systems will be invoiced after registration closes. All registration fees must be paid, at least, one week prior to the session beginning. For assistance in planning registration, view the [SSI 2018 Pre-Planning Document](#).

Note: Career Readiness Training will be available at the Super Summer Institute sites. As Journey to Careers is being phased out over the next year and replaced with the new Career Readiness course, teachers must be trained to facilitate the new curriculum. Training will begin this summer and continue over the next year. Each Career Readiness Training session at SSI will consist of one day of teacher training.

Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to jumpstart@la.gov.

NCCER Approval Timeline

The Louisiana Department of Education approves thousands of NCCER credentials each year. The approval process is as follows:

- At completion of coursework, NCCER Instructor of record submits "Registration of Training Modules" through NCCER Registry.
- LDE representatives will audit each submission and request documentation. Instructors are given up to two weeks to send documentation.
- After LDE review, pending no issues, the forms are submitted to NCCER and should arrive within ten business days.

If the course is taught through a third party provider (e.g., ABC Pelican, Louisiana Community and Technical College System site), the process may vary. If you have questions or need further assistance, please direct all questions to jumpstart@la.gov.

NCAA High School Advisory Group Reminder

Don't miss out! The deadline to apply to become a member of the NCAA High School Advisory Group is **Friday, April 20**.

The Advisory Group is a two-year commitment. The purpose of the group is to review new processes and procedures, as well as brainstorm and discuss ideas, opinions and feedback concerning ways the NCAA Eligibility Center can improve its service to the high school community.

To apply, please submit a resume and 500-word statement describing why you would like to serve as a member of the High School Advisory Group to ec-clientrelations@naaa.org. Late submissions will not be considered.

In Case You Missed It

[NUMBER OF GRADUATES ACHIEVING TOPS REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[BILL THAT WOULD IMPROVE AFFORDABLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN LOUISIANA BREEZES THROUGH STATE HOUSE](#) (The Advocate)

['STARBUCKS CLASSROOMS,' PLUS SIX OTHER NEW APPROACHES IN EDUCATION](#) (The Washington Post)

[7 WAYS TO NET MORE COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID](#) (Forbes)

[4 WAYS TO INCREASE ODDS OF WINNING COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS](#) (U.S. News and World Report)

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