Counselor Spotlight

My name is Katherine Taylor, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor and member of LCA, LSCA, ACA, and ASCA. I earned an MA from the University of North Carolina in 2008 and spent about six years working in community mental health. I transitioned into school counseling in 2012 and have been with St. Scholastica Academy in Covington, Louisiana for five years. As counselor in a newly-crowned RAMP high school, I was asked to share how our comprehensive school counseling program equips our students for involvement in valuable work-based learning experiences, specifically summer internship opportunities.

Once thought to be a component of the college experience, summer internships have and will likely continue to grow in popularity for high school students due to their tremendous benefits for young people and communities. Through these opportunities, we know that our students are developing valuable life and professional skills, refining their postsecondary goals, creating lifelong networking connections that they can rely on for years to come, and most importantly, building self-confidence. Additionally, the hands-on experiences achieved through work-based learning opportunities strengthen our student’s ability to connect the value of today’s academic challenges to the excitement of the career world that awaits them.

At St. Scholastica, an all-girls high school with grades 8-12, not a year is lost in regards to postsecondary planning. Our students set goals every school year and track progress, achievements, and recognitions on their resume. Individual student planning allows for guidance throughout this process and ensures that learning targets are achieved. Should a student choose to pursue a summer internship, her resume is ready to go as she approaches potential opportunities. To assist in narrowing her options, our students complete yearly self-assessments to explore their unique traits such as career interests, personality considerations, and learning styles through classroom guidance lessons incorporated into our school counseling core curriculum.

We know that many of our students are looking for ways to set themselves apart. Work-based learning experiences like summer internships, part-time employment, volunteerism, and other productive uses of time can be the ticket to achieving their postsecondary goals. Providing opportunities for self-assessment, strengthening interview and resume-building skills, and forming connections within our community are just a few ways that our comprehensive school counseling program meets the needs of
Our students.

Katherine Taylor, School Counselor

Career Readiness and Postsecondary Planning

LDOE FAFSA Campaign Underway

The Department began a six-week social media campaign at the beginning of April to build FAFSA awareness among students and parents, and it's still going strong. To date, nearly 21,000 applications have been submitted, pushing the completion rate to 50 percent! At this time last year, the completion rate was only at 35 percent. Thank you to all of you for your work to support families and students in this process.

In order to keep the momentum going, counselors are invited to share FAFSA-related posts to their own accounts on the LDOE Facebook page. Photos of students completing the forms, bringing in acceptance letters or scholarship awards, or participating in any part of the FAFSA process are also encouraged. When posting, simply use #45minutes to help spread the word.

In addition to the social media pages, the Department has also updated their website with a FAFSA toolkit. Here, counselors can find videos, frequently asked questions, and many other resources aimed at making the FAFSA process as simple as possible.

Counselors are also urged to work with students in becoming student ambassadors who can help spread the word about FAFSA and act as mentors throughout the process.

For more financial aid-related events, please see the LDOE Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events.


The Career and Technical Education (C.A.T.E.) Data System will be open from May 15 until June 30, 2017, to submit 2016-2017 C.A.T.E. data as required for reporting Perkins Core Indicators. The Department will host a one-hour webinar to support schools and school systems with data entry. Please use the directions that follow to join the webinar on Tuesday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. or Tuesday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

To join the 2016-2017 C.A.T.E. Data Submission Webinar (no preregistration required)

- Go to https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/catefor2017/
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

For further assistance, please contact Martha.Moore@la.gov.

19 Year-Old Applicants Included in FAFSA Completion Numbers

The Department of Education now includes 19 year-old applicants in the FAFSA completion numbers, and the first data set is now available. NCAN will be publishing a blog post about FAFSA completion rates as of June 30, 2016, comparing the past data with the new, providing a sense of how the inclusion of 19 year-olds impacts the numbers. Information can be found on the FSA webpage.

Register for the 2017 Teacher Leader Summit

Registration for the 2017 Teacher Leader Summit is now open. Educators must use their district’s unique registration code to register in WisdomWhere for each day they plan to attend the Summit. Registration will close Monday, May 15.

The Summit will take place Tuesday, June 6 through Friday, June 9 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. This event will bring together more than 5,000 educators and content experts from across the state to share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2017-2018 school year. The Summit will offer educators the choice of over 200 sessions led by LDOE staff members, partner organizations, and fellow educators from across Louisiana.

Contact your Teacher Leader coordinator for information about attending this year’s Summit, or contact...
CLEP Professional Development Opportunity

The Department is partnering with the College Board to provide a free, pre-conference session at the 2017 ACCUPLACER and CLEP National Conference in New Orleans June 20-22, 2017. The dedicated pre-conference session highlighting CLEP best practices and Louisiana high schools will be held on June 20, from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

- Full conference registration link: https://accuclep-conference.collegeboard.org/

Please email collegereadiness@la.gov with questions.

ASVAB Career Exploration Program Introduces the ASVAB Computer-Adaptive Test

Counselors and administrators take pride in preparing students to be productive citizens upon graduation. As an educator, familiarity with students’ abilities coupled with experience in preparing students for post-graduation makes you a valuable resource to students as they decide what to do after high school. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) can assist with the challenges of guiding students through the difficulty of making career choices for the future.

The ASVAB CEP has four components: the ASVAB Assessment, the Find Your Interest Personality Inventory, the ASVAB Career Exploration Guide, and the ASVAB CEP planning tool. The ASVAB CEP assessment provides three Career Exploration scores in Verbal Skills, Math Skills, and Science and Technology. The scores serve as information the program can provide about students that can aid in the exploration of educational and career options.

Visit the ASVAB website for more information. For southern Louisiana, contact: F. "Collin" Henry Jr., Program Manager (ESS), ASVAB Career Exploration Program, New Orleans, LA. Office: 504-678-3535 ext. 242 or Fax: 504-678-8925. Email: floyd.c.henry.civ@mail.mil. For northern Louisiana, contact James Sanders, ASVAB Career Exploration Program, Shreveport, LA 71118, Office: 504-216-4956. Email: james.l.sanders18.civ@mail.mil

Summer Institute Registration Underway

The Louisiana School Counselor Association’s Summer Institute is currently accepting applications. This year’s topic is "Five Strategies for Coping with Trauma and Stress in K-12 Schools and Communities." The workshop will take place on June 3 at Xavier University. See the institute flyer for more information.

To ensure that all students have access to early college coursework, the Department will provide an exam fee reimbursement for each 2017 Advanced Placement exam taken by a public school student who qualifies for the AP exam fee reduction. To be eligible for a low-income test fee reimbursement, school test coordinators must code "option 1" on each qualifying student’s AP answer document. The Department will reconcile all eligible exams as validated by the College Board and reimburse school systems in the fall of 2017 via an allocation and grant award notification.

Please email collegereadiness@la.gov with questions.

Registration for LSCA Summer Institute Underway

The Louisiana School Counselor Association’s Summer Institute is currently accepting applications. The topic is Five Strategies for Coping with Trauma and Stress in K-12 Schools and Communities. The workshop will take place on June 3, 2017 at Xavier University. For more information on fees, or to register, see the institute flyer.

School Programs and Support

Nomination Deadline for LSCA School Counselor of the Year This Sunday

The nomination deadline for the School Counselors of the Year is this Sunday, April 30, 2017. LSCA accepts nominations for those persons who have made outstanding contributions to school counseling or
Youth Challenge Program Seeking Applicants

There is still time for students to apply to the Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program. Eligible students are provided the opportunity to earn up to fifteen hours of college credit through Bossier Parish Community College or participate in a workforce training program to earn a basic certification in welding or industrial manufacturing.

For more information on how to apply, call 1-800-CAMP-KID or visit the Youth Challenge website. You can also find information on Facebook.

River Cohen College Scholarship submissions being accepted

River Cohen Giving is offering a $1000 scholarship to eligible students.

Eligibility:

- High school students graduating this calendar year who have been accepted into an accredited college, university, trade school, or design school
- Students currently enrolled in an accredited college, university, trade school, or design school.

To apply, prospective applicants are asked to submit a short essay that answers the question, "How can philanthropy change the world?" The deadline for submission is November 30, 2017. For details on essay submission, visit http://rivercohengiving.com. Also, feel free to email River Cohen at scholarship@rivercohengiving.com for more information.

AP News

2017 Advanced Placement Administration

Advanced Placement® (AP) Exams start the week of May 1, 2017. The complete exam schedule can be found on the AP Central Exam Dates and Fees web page. Please sign in to AP Ordering® to review your school's online AP coordinator account to ensure that your orders have been properly placed and processed and take a moment to review the AP Coordinator Planning Calendar for important dates and deadlines.

Please contact the College Board at 877-274-6474 or email apexams@info.collegeboard.org for more information.

Register for AP Computer Science Principles at Jump Start Super Summer Institute

The deadline to register for the AP® Computer Science Principles session at the 2017 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) has been extended to May 12, 2017. This session is new to SSI this year and will explore the computational thinking practices and the components of the curriculum framework, including the big ideas, enduring understandings, learning objectives, and essential knowledge statements. Please see the SSI Overview document or contact jumpstart@la.gov for more information about the Jump Start Super Summer Institute.

Spring 2017 AP Exam Fee Program Update

To ensure that all students have access to early college coursework, the Department will provide an exam fee reimbursement for each 2017 Advanced Placement® exam taken by a public school student who qualifies for the AP exam fee reduction. To be eligible for a low-income test fee reimbursement, school test coordinators must code "option 1" on each qualifying student's AP answer document. The Department will reconcile all eligible exams as validated by the College Board and reimburse school systems in the fall of 2017 via an allocation and grant award notification.

Please email collegereadiness@la.gov with questions.

Become an AP Reader
Every June, over 15,000 Advanced Placement® teachers and college faculty members from around the world gather to score the free-response sections of the AP Exams. These AP Readers are led by a Chief Reader—a college professor who has the responsibility of ensuring that students’ responses are scored to accurately reflect college-level achievement. AP Readers often describe AP Reading as one of the best professional development experiences available.

Please visit the College Board AP Reader web page for more information.