

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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Counselor Spotlight: Christianne Ricard



My recent transition from elementary to high school counseling has been a learning experience. Thankfully, I have colleagues who have been a great help to me as I learn my new role-fellow counselors with the common goal of supporting all students and providing them with quality resources that can help them make informed decisions throughout their high school years and beyond.

One of the ways we support our seniors is by helping them complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Completing the [FAFSA form](#) has a number of benefits that are not limited to four-year college entrance. In addition to grants and loans for university study, the federal dollars students can access through the FAFSA can fund many other postsecondary options: community colleges, online and technical schools, and [comprehensive transition and postsecondary \(CTP\) programs](#) for students with intellectual disabilities. I know that, without completing the FAFSA, my students cannot access federal grants or certain scholarships. That's why I share several resources from the [Federal Student Aid website](#), including this adaptation of their list of the three types of federal student aid:

- [Grants](#): financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (Pell, FSEOG, TEACH, and Military Service Grants)
- [Work-study](#): money students earn through a work program
- [Loans](#): borrowed money for college or career school, must be repaid with interest

The [Louisiana Believes](#) website has been a resource for me for years, and now it is helping me learn new information and better advise my high school students. For instance, I didn't have considerable experience with Jump Start pathways, so I relied heavily on the information I could find online. Some of the most useful to me are the [Jump Start Graduation Pathways Spreadsheet](#), [STS-Code Matrix](#), [Jump Start Updates document](#), and the [Students With Disabilities Resources](#) web page. I also gained a lot from the [May 2019 C.A.T.E. webinar](#). I'm learning more about Jump Start every day and can't wait to go to my first [Jump Start Convention](#) in January to see what's new in Jump Start 2.0!

I am proud to be working alongside passionate and knowledgeable counselors who are in the business of doing what is best for students. They share their time, energy, and expertise to help me be a resource to the students of Woodlawn High School. Thanks to our entire school counseling team, I am truly looking forward to seeing great student outcomes in 2020.

Student Scholarship and Award Opportunities

Cooke College Scholarship

The deadline to apply for [The Cooke College Scholarship](#) is **November 13, 2019**. This opportunity is available to high-achieving high school seniors who seek to attend the nation's best four-year colleges and universities.

Please see the [Counselors and Educators page](#) for more information; direct students to the [Common App Applicant Solutions Center](#) if they need assistance with application platform.

Acadian Ambulance EMT Scholarship

This year, Acadian Ambulance is honoring 50 students with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) scholarships. This scholarship is available for students graduating high school in 2020 who are interested in emergency medicine. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2020.

Please see the EMT [scholarship application](#) or visit the [Acadian website](#) for more information.

Professional Development Opportunities

ASCA Webinars

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) offers [professional development](#) in several different formats. ASCA [webinars](#) are available to watch live or on demand. Upcoming webinars include the following:

- [K-8 Postsecondary Culture Creation](#) on November 4, 2019
- [Career Exploration and Development with a Focus on Implicit Bias](#) on Nov. 19, 2019
- [Virtual Career Lessons](#) on Nov. 21, 2019

Earn CEUs/contact hours for viewing ASCA webinars and taking a short quiz. Each webinar is worth 0.1 CEUs/1 contact hour. Visit the [ASCA professional development web page](#) for more information.

2020 Jump Start Convention

[Registration](#) for the 2020 Jump Start Convention is open until **January 3**. Attendees will learn the latest trends in career and technical education and gain information about the new streamlined Jump Start 2.0 pathways that will be considered for adoption in spring 2020. Attendees will include counselors, school system administrators, high school principals, career and technical education (CTE) leaders, regional economic development leaders, and workforce development organizations.

Please see the [Jump Start Meetings and Training Opportunities](#) web page for a list of [discounted hotels](#); email jumpstart@la.gov for more information.

School Safety

Louisiana Panic Button

On August 29, 2019, Governor John Bel Edwards announced that the state is providing funding for all K-12 schools in Louisiana to begin using Rave, a mobile safety app that will better alert authorities to

emergencies on K-12 campuses. The Rave Panic Button alerts authorities to an active shooter, a medical emergency, a fire, or other crisis. The app simultaneously sends out a notification to teachers and staff. This reduces the time it takes for staff to implement emergency response.

Visit the [Louisiana Panic Button](#) website for more information.

In Case You Missed It

[LOUISIANA AIMS TO EXPAND DEBT-FREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO EARN CAREER SKILLS, CREDIT TOWARD COLLEGE DEGREE](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[THE CLINTONS' SURPRISE VISIT TO A LITERACY PROGRAM AT PO-BOY SHOP, LAUNDRY ABOUT TO GO BIG](#) (NOLA.com)

[LOUISIANA APPROVES TRAINING PATHWAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CAREERS IN EDUCATION](#) (Louisiana Believes)
