

# COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for  
Louisiana's Professional  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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## Counselor Spotlight: Lacy Blanchard



Unique teaching challenges arise with the emergence of each new generation of students. With their unending supply of curiosity, unprecedented penchant for early entrepreneurialism, and pragmatic approach to problem solving, Generation Z students clearly demonstrate different strengths than their predecessors. So, how can educators meet the needs of these dynamic, ambitious students? Integrate career and technical education (CTE) into all academic subjects.

According to the [Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\)](#), "taking one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school." Students stay in school when what they are learning is relatable and engaging. CTE encompasses rigorous academic, technical, and career-readiness skills training and engaging work-based and project-based learning to help students solve real-world problems and challenges. Thus, CTE inherently works to the strengths of Gen Z-ers, effectively focusing their attention with relevant, hands-on instruction. Now, more than ever, it is important for school counselors to become well versed in the world of CTE so we can help all of our students realize their full potential.

The [CTE Leadership Academy](#) is the only continuing education program of its kind in our state. The academy's focus is to develop leaders who will serve as catalysts for enhancing transformative CTE opportunities for all students. A core belief of this innovative program is that all students are career students. Whether they are completing a university or career diploma, students want to have a successful career. All high school students take academic courses, but those without CTE experiences in high school do not have the same opportunities to develop crucial career-readiness skills. All educators have to stop considering career and technical education as an alternative to college preparatory programs; rather, CTE and college-prep should blend to provide a well-rounded education so all students are optimally prepared for college and career.

Collaboration is key to integrating academics and CTE to meet the needs of all learners. The good news is that teachers in the core subject areas may find ways to engage and motivate their students

by looking no further than the CTE classes just down the hall! As a school counselor and CTE leader-in-training, one way I plan to do my part is by hosting a career fair with an uncommon objective: to connect core-subject teachers with industry trainers and postsecondary instructors who can help them integrate CTE into academic coursework.

November is [National Career Development Month](#). What better time than now to explore versatile educational strategies to prepare us for the continuously evolving career outlook of this generation of students and those to come?

Lacy G. Blanchard  
School Counselor, French Settlement High School  
CTE Leadership Academy, Cohort 2

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## School Counselors of the Year

The [Louisiana School Counselor Association](#) recently announced the new Louisiana School Counselors of the Year.

- Elementary School Counselor of the Year: **Laura Smestad**, St. Pius X Elementary School
- Middle School Counselor of the Year: **Candace Sharper**, St. Amant Middle School
- High School Counselor of the Year and Louisiana State Counselor of the Year: **Lindsay Carlino**, St. Joseph's Academy

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees and award recipients!

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## Student Opportunities

### **National Career Development Month Poetry and Art Contest**

The [National Career Development Association \(NCDA\)](#) promotes career exploration for all ages by providing professional development, publications, standards, and advocacy; encouraging schools to celebrate Career Development Month every November; and sponsoring an annual poetry and art contest. This year's contest theme is **My Inspiring Future Career**.

The winning entries for each division will be recognized and displayed on the NCDA website in June 2020 and at the annual Global Career Development Conference. National winners will also receive a special certificate and congratulatory gift from the National Career Development Association.

- Primary: grades K-2
- Intermediate: grades 3-5
- Middle: grades 6-8
- Senior: grades 9-12
- Adult Student: ages 18 and older, enrolled in school
- Open Adult: ages 18 and older, not enrolled in school

Please see the [2019 NCD Month Contest Brochure](#) for complete details.

### **Free Admission to WWII Museum**

The [National World War II Museum](#) in New Orleans is offering grant-funded field trips for students attending Title I schools to experience special history exhibits, lectures, and STEM events. Through December 20, 2019, students can participate in the museum's special exhibit field trip, Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann. This field trip is funded through the Taube Family Holocaust Education Program and covers museum admission--up to two field trips per school.

Please email the museum's director of education, [abbie.edens@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:abbie.edens@nationalww2museum.org) or call 504-528-1944 ext. 225 for information about this and other student opportunities.

### **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.

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## Professional Development Opportunities

### **Career Connections Conference**

[Registration](#) is now open for the [Louisiana Career Development Association](#) annual Career Connections Conference.

Conference speakers are NCDA President-Elect Seth Hayden and LCDA President-Elect Christopher Belser. Conference sessions have been approved by the Louisiana Counseling Association and the National Board for Certified Counselors for a combined 6.0 CEU hours.

When: January 24, 2020  
Where: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Email [info@louisianacareerdevelopment.org](mailto:info@louisianacareerdevelopment.org) for more information.

### **Jump Start Convention**

The theme for the 2020 Jump Start Convention is **Jump Start 2.0: Modern Pathways for a Prosperous Future**. Attendees will include counselors, school system administrators, high school principals, career and technical education leaders, regional economic development leaders, and workforce development organizations.

When: January 28, 2020  
Where: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

[Registration](#) is open until January 3, 2020. Please see the [Jump Start Meetings and Training Opportunities](#) web page for a list of [discounted hotels](#); email [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) for more information.

### **Global Conference on Career Development**

The [2020 National Career Development Association \(NCDA\) Global Conference](#) theme is **Inspiring Innovation, Increasing Diversity, and Promoting Social Justice in Career Practice**.

When: June 30 - July 2, 2020  
Where: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Attendees can receive continuing education hours for attending educational sessions and attending pre-conference institutes. Visit the [conference CEUs page](#) for more information.

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## Middle and High School News

### **Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA)/Course Choice**

Registration for Course Choice Spring 2020 opens on November 25, 2019, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 10, 2020.

Schools will register students directly with the course providers and/or higher education institutions. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Schools must document all SCA private provider and dual enrollments in the [Course Choice Registration System](#) by the end of registration deadlines in order to fund the courses with SCA.

Please email [sca@la.gov](mailto:sca@la.gov) with questions.

## National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) News

### High School Portal Login Enhancements

As of Tuesday, November 12, high school representatives logging in to the High School Portal will continue to use their HS or CEEB Code, but no longer use the school's five-digit PIN. (The PIN continues to be required when contacting Customer Service.) Instead, users will log in using a single password for the school. This change creates greater security for the high school's account and provides increased control of who has access to the account when an employee separates from a school.

Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center [help page](#) for more information; refer to the [password reset flowchart](#) for a step-by-step reference.

### Transcripts and Proof of Graduation

Accounts will be Ready to Process--Final once a final official transcript with proof of graduation is received. **Schools may provide verification of the date of graduation in letter format for mid-year graduates.** Proof of graduation by letter must be on school letterhead and signed by a high school administrator. Individual letters for each student are required and should include the actual date (month, day, year) the student met graduation requirements. See the [Proof of Graduation Policy and Procedures document](#) for more information.

### National Guard Youth Challenge Program

The mission of the [National Guard Youth Challenge Program \(YCP\)](#) is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of youths aged 16 to 18 years old, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.

A recent addition to the Louisiana National Guard YCP is [Course Choice Credit Recovery \(CCCR\)](#), an option that allows students to maintain their current course loads and/or recover credit; schools retain their SCA and MFP funds while keeping YCP cadets in their graduation cohorts.

To learn more, please contact Timberly Deville, Education Coordinator, at 318-641-5803, [timberly.deville@la.gov](mailto:timberly.deville@la.gov) or visit the [Louisiana YCP website](#).

## Assessment Updates

### LEAP 360

School systems that wish to continue using LEAP 360 must sign and return the [LEAP 360 MOU](#) by **June 26, 2020**.

The LEAP 360 program is evolving to help school systems reduce unnecessary testing by using embedded assessments within high-quality curricula. This year, the number of ELA interims is being reduced to only one form for each grade or course.

LEAP 360 resources include K-2 formative tasks, diagnostics, and interim tests at no cost to school systems. Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) for more information about LEAP 360.

## In Case You Missed It

[LANGEVIN, THOMPSON INTRODUCE BILL TO STRENGTHEN CAREER COUNSELING IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS](#) (National Career Development Association)

[SCORES PROVIDE FIRST LOOK AT IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED IN ESSA PLAN](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[WHY IS COLLEGE SO EXPENSIVE?](#) (U.S. News and World Report)

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

