

COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's
Professional School Counselors



March 2022

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Counselor Spotlight: Ashley Churbock Rogillio



As counselors, we know that relationships are at the heart of what we do. I know our impact and effectiveness can be measured by many different data points; however, we know at the heart of it all, the relationship you build with students can be life changing and everlasting. Our counseling relationship with students can be a very positive model for how students can have positive, and healthy relationships with others. We are helping shape and encourage students to practice relationship skills that extend beyond the counseling setting.

Restoring Relationships

One of my favorite and most useful training that I received early on in my career was in Restorative Practices. It really resonated with me because it was centered around rebuilding and repairing relationships that have been harmed. I loved that it allowed all parties involved to openly communicate their side of the story. This allows students the opportunity to communicate how they are feeling, what they've been thinking, and how they have been affected. But, it also allows that person to hear how the other person has been feeling, thinking, and affected, as well. This has been such a powerful tool to help build and support empathy, listening, self-awareness, communication, forgiveness, and other important skills that support healthy relationship building. I have seen how holding a restorative circle between students or student and teacher can be a powerful tool in rebuilding relationships that have been harmed, broken, or hurt in some way. I have found that it is such a practical tool to use with students to encourage and support building of social skills. Students are better able to resolve conflict with peers and adults which leads to less behavioral issues inside, and outside, of the classroom.

Restoring Climate and Culture

When I first started at Lowery Elementary, I worked diligently with administration to incorporate restorative practices in our disciplinary procedures. We recognized that we needed to be more mindful and intentional about building skills in students so that they can feel better prepared to deal with conflict and can adequately problem solve around difficult situations. We wanted to empower our students to communicate their feelings and ask to resolve conflict in a peaceful way rather than resorting to conflict with peers and/or staff members. As a school, we dedicated time to implement restorative practices as a way to be proactive and reactive to behavior issues on our campus. Each year we saw more and more students requesting a restorative circle. We saw discipline referrals decrease and less violent or aggressive behaviors in students. We noticed that more students and staff were taking the time to work through things in a healthy and productive way. This was one of the ways I was able to help support

climate and culture at my school. Making sure staff and students knew that they had the option to sit down and restore relationships has truly helped our school feel more inviting, welcoming, nurturing, and supportive.

Cultivating Change

While it takes time to truly make everlasting changes, implementing school-wide programming and interventions that support student social and emotional learning has allowed me more time to implement the ASCA model. Now that restorative practices are being utilized daily on my campus, I can better focus on classroom lessons, small groups, and individual work with students. I am no longer putting out fires all day. I can better support students in their academic journey and goals by dedicating more time to the proactive pieces of the school counseling role. I know that my work in restoring and rebuilding relationships across the school has allowed me to have deeper and more meaningful relationships with my students as a whole. I am able to dedicate more time to working with students on long term goals rather than just “making it through the day.” Students are more successful at school, and in turn, at home and in their communities. I know these relationship skills will translate into happier and healthier lives for our students.

Ashley Churbock Rogillio, Ed.S, LPC-S
School Counselor | Lowery Elementary School

Student Opportunities

Reminder: Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application Deadline

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting [applications](#) for up to forty \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarship is geared toward students who have earned the Jump Start Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential, and plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program. Applications are due April 12.

This is the state’s first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates. This effort is a collaboration of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Department.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

Professional Opportunities

LOSFA TOPS Processing Webinars

LOSFA is hosting the 2022 TOPS Processing Webinars for Professional School Counselors. These interactive, virtual events are designed to help minimize TOPS processing errors for graduating seniors.

Part 1: A Comprehensive Review of TOPS Processing. This webinar provides an overview of the TOPS processing cycle and reviews solutions to common errors that prevent or delay TOPS processing, including best practices for submitting documents to LOSFA.

Dates and times available for this session:

[Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 9 a.m.](#)

[Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.](#)

Part 2: Preparing Your Seniors for TOPS Processing. This webinar will take an in-depth look at residency verification for TOPS, STS requirements for LOSFA, and navigating the Student Hub.

Dates and times available for this session:

[Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.](#)

[Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 9 a.m.](#)

Use the links above to register for the webinar(s) of your choice. You will receive an email confirmation containing the ZOOM login information after registering. The email will come from Rhonda Bridevaux <no-reply@zoom.us>. Please check your junk or spam mail if you do not receive the email in your inbox.

Please contact Rhonda.Bridevaux@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both "Making a Comeback" and our 10th year for this event.

[Regular registration](#) will close on April 15 or at sellout. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

Based on participant feedback, enhancements have been made to Teacher Leader Summit, including:

- An improved event app that allows networking with other attendees, Whova
- Increased registration value by including t-shirts and tote bags in the ticket price
- Networking opportunities throughout the event, including evening socials
- Length of day adjusted to meet the needs of participants

The Education Expo returns with high quality professional learning partners and non-profit organizations.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Middle and High School News

NCAA Portal Update

Please take some time to update [your school's core-course list](#). A list that has not been updated recently could delay your students' academic certification or prevent them from meeting the NCAA academic eligibility requirements. You may add courses, archive courses no longer taught, and change course titles quickly and easily on the [High School Portal](#). For more information on updating your school's core-course list, [click here](#). *Note:* If you believe your school's list is accurate, please log in to the [High School Portal](#) to verify you have no updates. This will refresh your account and let the NCAA know your core-course list is up to date.

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

LOSFA ACT Guide

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance has developed an [ACT Guide](#) to help students and parents navigate the ACT registration process, test prep materials, and information for test day.

[The ACT Guide](#) is conveniently located on the LOSFA website under [Financial Aid 101](#), [TOPS](#), and the [Counselor Corner](#).

Please contact rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov with questions.

Financial Aid Planning

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened on October 1. Completing the application early is imperative to ensure students get the maximum aid available to them. Schools/school systems can get live, phone or online assistance with FAFSA completion events from the Department. FAFSA completion or having a waiver on file is a requirement for graduation and to count in the graduation cohort.

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov for more information or to set up an assistance visit.

Well-Being and Healthy Communities

Four Pillars of Support for Well-Being

The four pillars of the well-being division were created to address student mental health, emotional health and educator wellness. The pillars address the connection between academic performance and student well-being. Integrating the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) platform into the four pillars, the state is addressing the whole child and supporting the adults who engage students on a daily basis.

Pillar I : Build District Personnel Capacity to Support all Students

Pillar II: Prioritize Positive Intentional Relationships

Pillar III: Attend to Individual Students' Needs by Responding with Appropriate Supports

Pillar IV: Ensure Every Student has the Life Skills for Post-Secondary Success

Please contact byron.hurst@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators

Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed psychologists or therapists through your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

What can be treated? Addiction, Adolescent Counseling, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, Attention Deficit, Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Depression and Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss Counseling, Insomnia, Marriage and Family Counseling, Postpartum Depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Work-related Stress

Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at www.ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com and enter Service Key: LDOE; Coupon Code: TEACH

Please email anywherecare@ochsner.org for 24/7 technical support, call 855-667-9711.

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

Trauma Demonstration Recovery Grant

Provides funds to pay for trauma specific therapy sessions provided by a state licensed mental health professional for students identified as “low income” that have suspected trauma that is negatively impacting the student’s learning and cannot access public and/or commercial health insurance to pay for these services. Students may be enrolled in Louisiana’s public, charter or private schools to be eligible for these services.

For additional information, please email traumarecoverygrant@la.gov.

Well-Being Monthly Call

The Well-Being team hosts monthly calls on the 4th Wednesday of the month for professional development opportunities that focus on evidence-based, best practices around the well-being of school communities.

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Link

ID: 982 3443 7320

Passcode: 303150

Number: 3126266799

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

In Case You Missed It

[REMEDIAL COURSES TO BE ELIMINATED IN LOUISIANA COLLEGES](#) (KTAL)

[‘TRIO WORKS’: FIRST-GEN, LOW INCOME STUDENTS REDEFINE SUCCESS](#) (BG Falcon Media)

[DEPARTMENT FUNDS \\$40 MILLION IN REIMAGINE SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES 2022 STATE STUDENTS OF THE YEAR FINALISTS](#) (Louisiana Believes)