

# COUNSELOR CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana's  
Professional School Counselors



May 2021

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## Counselor Spotlight: Lamesa Fleury



State testing, masks, hand washing, car duty, graduation, counseling sessions, SBLC, Student Learning Targets, small group lessons, did I say masks? Yes, the end-of-year hustle and bustle has kicked into full gear while in the midst of a global pandemic. I am an elementary school counselor, and never in my years of counseling have I had to make so many adjustments in one school year! The good thing is that School Counselor is just another name for SUPERHERO. We are superheroes right? We help solve problems, work with communities, we are vigilantes in our own right and we are ready to take over the world at any time, but most importantly, we adapt and overcome!

Regardless of what is going on, the children are our top priority. Yes, I know we do a great deal already, but what if we could use our superhero status and reach people all over the world? Seriously, your reach does not have to be limited to your building, and I am here to show you how to reach the unreachable.

### **Create your own website.**

Use a platform like a personal website not only for your students, but create a space anyone can visit. You could share helpful links, advocate for students through blogging, share tips on how to decrease anxiety or even share suicide prevention hotline information. There are several easy website builders: Wix, Weebly, Squarespace, WordPress, etc. Many of the site builders have free options. You can check out my [website](#) for ideas.

### **Write your own book.**

Books always leave a lasting mark. I was fortunate to write and publish [my very own children's book](#) in 2020. My self-publishing experience was amazing, and I now have a story that will reach people all over the world. Kindle Direct Publishing afforded me an opportunity to upload my book and instantly share it with millions through paperback and eBook. You can do it too! If you enjoy writing, find a topic that is important to you and tell a story that will enter the hearts and minds of those beyond your school, beyond your city, state, or country! Research self-publishing companies and find the best fit for you.

### **Create a podcast.**

Podcasts allow us to share our thoughts and feelings with the world. Some are for motivation, some are for meditation and others are informational. They are a great alternative to video and easy to create. Podcasting is a time-efficient, cost-effective form of communication that could even improve your public speaking skills! This is definitely a way to advocate for children, share information about mental health and share additional great material with a broad audience.

### **Use virtual learning platforms.**

Most of you probably already use Canvas, Zoom, Google Classroom, or even Google Hangouts to communicate and share information with students, teachers and parents. That is awesome! It is important to know that you could use Zoom or other applications like it to have more reach. This could include panel discussions or summits for audiences everywhere. You could invite leaders or experts from anywhere to share information and ideas about prevalent topics.

These are just a few ideas that could help you uplift and inspire in unconfined ways. Marianne Williamson once said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." We have superpowers that can reach as far as we will allow them to reach. Counselor friends, we are doing heavy work in a heavy world and we are crushing it! Keep reaching, keep soaring and make your mark. After all, we are SUPERHEROES, right?

Lamesa Furlow Fleury, MA, MCC  
School Counselor, Southern Hills Elementary

## **Student Opportunities**

### **BRCC Super Summer Scholarship Deadline this Friday**

**Please share this information with the Class of 2021 seniors in your region.**

Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) is offering a scholarship that can cover up to 75% of a student's tuition for its upcoming summer sessions. The Super Summer Scholarship is available for both in-state and out-of-state students and applies to both face-to-face and online classes. **Individuals must be enrolled in summer classes by tomorrow, May 21**, to take advantage of the scholarship offer.

[Register for Summer Classes](#)

[Apply for Super Summer Scholarship](#)

Completing the short application form is a fast, affordable way for new high school graduates to get a head start in their academic program. Current college students can also apply. Please visit the [Super Summer Scholarship](#) page for more information.

### **Career Waves2 Senior Salute & Information Session**

**Please share this information with the Class of 2021 seniors in your region.**

The Career Waves2 team is hosting an information session for the Class of 2021 at 1:00 p.m. each day from May 31 until Jun 4, 2021. Please encourage the seniors to attend on one of the dates listed below to learn more about career and technical education (CTE) programs in RMLA Region 2.

**When:** 1:00 p.m. on May 31, June 1, June 2, June 3, **or** June 4

**Zoom link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81993676697>

**Meeting ID:** 819 9367 6697

**Call in:** 312-626-6799 or 646-558-8656

**One tap mobile:** 13126266799,,81993676697# or +16465588656,,81993676697#

Funded 100% by Carl D. Perkins grant funding, Career Waves2 is a one-stop shop for learning about CTE programs offered at the community and technical colleges in RMLA 2. Career Waves2 also provides national and statewide job market insights. Please visit the [Career Waves2](#) portal for more information.

## Professional Opportunities

### **Scheduling and Best Practices Guidance**

Counselors should use the [Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance](#) and kick-off webinar were released last month. This guidance provides systems and school leaders with best practices, staffing and scheduling models, cautions and tips for implementation, and information about ongoing implementation support.

- **Presentation Posted:** The Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices: Counselor and Counselor Leaders Job Alike Session presentation held on May 12 has now been posted to the [School System Support Toolbox](#).
- **Upcoming Webinars:** The remaining supports available at no cost this spring are below.

Counselors and counselor leaders should attend these upcoming sessions. Participants must register using the link provided.

| Date and Time     | Session and Registration Link              |
|-------------------|--|
| June 16 at 1 p.m. | <a href="#">Staffing Q&amp;A Session</a>   |
| June 30 at 1 p.m. | <a href="#">Scheduling Q&amp;A Session</a> |

Please visit the [School System Support Library](#) to download the kick-off webinar presentation deck; contact [em.cooper@la.gov](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

### **Harbor Freight Prize: Reminder**

[Harbor Freight Tools for Schools](#) is a program established by Harbor Freight Tools to advance excellent skilled trades education in public high schools across America. In 2021, Harbor Freight will award over \$1 million in prizes to public high school skilled trades teachers for tools and equipment. **Three grand prize** winners will receive \$100,000, with \$70,000 going to the public high school skilled trades program and \$30,000 going to the eligible individual skilled trades teacher or teacher team. **Fifteen prize winners** will each be awarded \$50,000, with \$35,000 going to the public high school program and \$15,000 going to the eligible teacher or teacher team.

[Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Applications](#) are due by May 21, 2021. Eligible applicants are those who apply solo and teach any of the following skilled trades:

- Agriculture Mechanics
- Carpentry
- Construction Electrical

- HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning)
- Manufacturing
- Plumbing
- Transportation
- Mechanics and repair
- Welding

Please contact [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov) for more information.

## Middle and High School News

### NCAA News

#### **NCAA High School Advisory Group: Last Chance to Apply**

Composed of high school counselors, administrators and others involved in the high school space nationally, the High School Advisory Group teleconferences monthly. Members provide critical insight into the most recent needs, trends and challenges faced by high school counselors, coaches, administrators and others who advocate for and support high school student-athletes.

To apply, please email [ecupdate@ncaa.org](mailto:ecupdate@ncaa.org) with a resume and 500-word statement describing why you would like to serve as a member of the High School Advisory Group. **Entries must be submitted by Monday, May 31.** Late submissions will not be considered. Note: Participation in the group is a two-year commitment and will require participation in monthly teleconferences during the academic year. Prior members of the High School Advisory Group are not eligible.

#### **End-of-the-Year Reminders**

1. Upload Final Transcripts.
2. Update Core-Course Lists.
3. Request Final Amateurism.
4. Advise student-athletes on standardized tests.

Please refer to the [May 2021 NCAA High School Newsletter](#) for more information.