

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

In This Issue:

Counselor Spotlight: Denise Latour

Professional Opportunities

Assessment Resources

High School News

In Case You Missed It

July 2018



Counselor Spotlight: Denise Latour



Welcome back!

Earlier this year, The Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA) attempted to reach out to all of the school counselors in Louisiana. Since LSCA was unable to ascertain if every school counselor was on the mailing list, I need you to go to the [Louisiana School Counselor Contact Information Form](#) to provide your name and email address. Thank you for taking the time to do this.

As we begin the 18-19 school year, I am challenging you to advocate for the school counseling profession.

Why? According to Wendy Rock of LSCA, "The [ASCA Ethical Standards](#) call on us to advocate for the profession. According to our ethical standards, we advocate for 'a school counseling program free of non-school-counseling assignments' (B.2.c), 'for administrators to place in school counseling positions certified school counselors who are competent, qualified, and hold a master's degree or higher in school counseling from an accredited program' (B.2.h), and for school counselors to advocate 'for equitable school counseling programs policies and practices' (B.2.i)."

Lack time? Wes Upton of the Lone Star State School Counselor Association has this to say: "Your time and energy in counseling program advocacy pays dividends for multiple entities across your school community. Advocate for yourself. Advocate for your program. You will find that these advocacy efforts will result in ultimate advocacy for all students. You are worth it, school counselors are worth it, and all of the students we serve are worth it!"

How? Start by educating your students, parents, and co-workers on the role of a school counselor.

Learn about and begin to implement a comprehensive school counseling program that serves the needs of all students. Join your local and national school counselor groups, the Louisiana School Counselor Association, and the American School Counselor Association. Participate in professional development.

Denise Latour
LSCA President

Professional Opportunities

Call for Proposals

[Pathway 2 Tomorrow: Local Visions for America's Future](#) (P2T) is a new education initiative matching responsive and agile education policy solutions with state and community needs. P2T is [calling for proposals](#) from educators, parents, researchers, advocates, nonprofit and business leaders, and entrepreneurs with innovative, agile, and responsive solutions to complex education challenges. The initiative will support the development of selected proposals into policy papers and curate the final papers into a catalog of policy for state and local leaders. In its second phase it will support states and local communities through the implementation of responsive, local, and regional solutions.

Please see the [P2T flyer](#) for proposal requirements and submission instructions. **Proposals are due August 31, 2018.**

LCA Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for the [Louisiana Counseling Association \(LCA\) Annual Conference](#) at the Baton Rouge Crown Plaza hotel October 7-9, 2018. Presenters from the Louisiana School Counseling Association (LSCA) will be hosting ten 90-minute sessions at the conference.

Assessment Resources

- The [July/August Quick Reference for Test Coordinators](#) includes K-3, LEAP 2025, LEAP 360, LEAP Connect, ACT, WorkKeys, and general updates and reminders for school testing coordinators.
- The [LDOE Assessment Resources for Counselors](#) document provides information to support counselors and other educators in their discussions with students and parents.

Please email assessment@la.gov for support.

High School News

Congratulations!

Thanks to the hard work of counselors and other professionals across Louisiana, we are the #1 state in the nation for the number of high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Louisiana also leads the nation for completion growth since last year.

Help for At-Risk Youth

Did you know that students can participate in the Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program (YCP) and remain enrolled in, return to, and ultimately graduate from your high school?

The mission of YCP is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of young men and women aged 16-18

by teaching them the values, life skills, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens while providing instruction in and support for their academic courses.

If you know any students who are at risk of dropping out or just need help getting back on track, please refer to the [LDOE guidance document](#) for more information on this program.

Summer TOPS Processing Updates

ACT WorkKeys

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) cannot use the Workkeys certificate as proof of a Silver Level score because it does not have the date the score was achieved. Please use the [WorkKeys Test Results Form](#) to submit scores to LOSFA. The WorkKeys Skills Report is acceptable for sending scores for an individual student,.

SAT to ACT Conversion Tables

The 2018 SAT to ACT conversion tables have changed effective as of the May 2018 SAT. The new SAT scores based on this change are as follows:

- Tech Award - 920
- Opportunity Award - 1030
- Performance Award - 1130
- Honors Award - 1260

Opportunity for Young Entrepreneurs in the Baton Rouge Area

Do you know an aspiring young entrepreneur who attends school in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, or West Feliciana and wants to stand out from the crowd? [Young Entrepreneurs Academy of Baton Rouge](#) (YEA BR) is an after-school, 30-week program designed to teach students in grades 9 through 12 how to start and run their own business. Instructors from the LSU E. J. Ourso College of Business will help students connect their talents and interests to business opportunities, create business plans, pitch their ideas to an investor panel, and launch their own companies. Please see the one-page [flyer](#) or visit the [YEA BR nomination page](#) for more information.

The application deadline is August 31, 2018.

Career and Technical Education Data Submission

The [Career and Technical Education \(CATE\) Data System](#) will be open for 2017-2018 Career and Technical Education data **until August 31**.

Please email martha.moore@la.gov for assistance.

NCCER Approval Timeline

The Louisiana Department of Education approves thousands of NCCER credentials each year. The amount of time it takes for the approval process varies--particularly for courses taught through third-party providers. If you have questions or need further assistance, please email jumpstart@la.gov.



In Case You Missed It

[NEW DIPLOMA PLANNED FOR MATH, SCIENCE AND OTHER COURSES](#) (The Advocate)

[IN LOUISIANA, THIS UNIQUE PROGRAM PAYS STUDENTS TO GO TO SUMMER SCHOOL](#)
(The Advocate)

[LOUISIANA BYPASSES TENNESSEE TO BECOME NO.1 IN NATION FOR FAFSA
COMPLETION](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[A BIG GIFT FOR AN OVERLOOKED K-12 NICHE: SCHOOL COUNSELORS](#) (Inside
Philanthropy)

[ADMISSIONS OFFICERS DISCUSS 3 COMMON ESSAY TOPICS](#) (U.S. News and World Report)

Did you know the LDOE [newsletters](#) and [news releases](#) are available in the [Newsroom](#)?

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