

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

In This Issue:

Counselor Spotlight: Tara Washington

Professional Opportunities

Assessment Resources

Middle and High School News

August 2018



Counselor Spotlight: Tara Washington



Left to right: Tirza Fernandez-Braizer, Tara Washington, and Raquel Brown

It's Time to Advocate for Your School Counseling Program

You may be thinking, "Who has time for that"? You do it every single day. Your time and energy you spend with your students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members is **ADVOCACY!**

Some people are born with innate characteristics that propel them into a leadership role, but for many of us it doesn't come naturally. As a rule, we don't tend to think of ourselves as having a leadership role in our schools, yet leaders, we truly are. A true leader has great ideas on how to get a job done in new and unique ways! Who among you embody that definition on a daily basis? All of you, I would guess!

The ASCA National Model has been developed to provide us with the framework we need to advocate for our roles as school counselors. By creating and implementing a comprehensive program, you will be able to serve all students and validate the role you serve. If you have not developed a vision and mission statement for your program take the time now to do so. Make sure that your vision and mission statements align with your school and district's vision and mission statements.

Create your school counseling advisory council. Involve students, teachers, staff, parents and community members to be a part of your advisory council. Stakeholders love to know what's happening in their school. Advocate for yourself. Advocate for your program. Be proud of the difference you make every single day on your campus.

Counselors, despite our varied work settings, display leadership every day. We are the heartbeat of our schools/workplaces. No matter how well our associations are working, isn't there always room

at the table for more leaders?! We all have a role we can play, and having many hands makes the work more enjoyable and more efficient! Whether we are serving on a professional board or spearheading an initiative in the community, the people around us look for us to lead, and we must not forget that. As school counselors we must advocate for district and legislative changes. Through intentional, comprehensive programming we can continue to define our role to best serve all students across Louisiana.

Tara Washington, NBCC, NBCSC, BCPC
School Counselor, Woodlawn Middle School
Past LSCA President
2018 Louisiana School Counselor of the Year

Professional Opportunities

LDOE Counselor Collaborations

Each year the Department hosts the biannual Counselor Collaborations in order to give middle and high school counselors an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Department and network with other school counselors in their region. Topics to be discussed in the fall 2018 collaboration include reminders for school testing coordinators, individual graduation plans, and policy updates. Please encourage the counselors in your school system to register in [Wisdomwhere](#) for one of the collaboration events listed below.

- [October 16 at University View Academy](#), 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- [October 17 at St. Charles Professional Learning Center](#), 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- [October 18 at Acadia Parish Educational Center](#), 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- [October 29 at Bossier Instructional Center](#), 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- [October 29 at Monroe City School Board](#), 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- [October 30 at Avoyelles Parish Media Center](#), 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov if you have questions about these events.

New LOSFA Workshops for School Counselors

The LOSFA Professional School Counselor Workshops are designed to help students gain college access and persist through the first year of postsecondary education. Topics include LOSFA's 5-Point Match, FAFSA updates from LDOE and LOSFA, college admissions procedures, and TOPS application processing.

Please visit <http://www.osfa.la.gov/workshops> to register for one of the following dates:

- Baton Rouge: Monday, September 17, 2018
- New Orleans: Tuesday, September 18, 2018
- Lafayette: Wednesday, September 19, 2018
- Lake Charles: Thursday, September 20, 2018
- Shreveport: Monday, September 24, 2018
- Monroe: Tuesday, September 25, 2018
- Alexandria: Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Note: Schools can register up to eight counselors at once. Counselors who wish to attend a different or additional workshop must register for that location separately.

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.

Invitation from the LCDA

The Louisiana Career Development Association (LCDA) invites you to register for the LCA pre-conference learning institute, The Future of Work: Creating K-12 Career Development Programs with a Focus on Adaptable Career Decision-Making.

When: 2:00 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 6, 2018

Where: Baton Rouge Crown Plaza Hotel

Please see the [workshop invitation](#) or email 2016lcda@gmail.com for more information.

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.

Middle and High School News

Reminders for Schools Using Supplemental Course Allocations (SCA)

Schools will register students directly with private K-12 course providers and postsecondary education institutions. The [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) document provides details on how to contact private course providers to register students. Schools should contact higher education institutions directly for their registration procedures. Once students are properly registered, schools should document the enrollments in the [SCA portal](#). **All enrollments should be finalized by September 14, 2018. This includes students who are earning dual enrollment credit through colleges and universities.**

To access your account

- Go to <http://lacourses.net/>;
- Select LOGIN, FORGOT PASSWORD;
- Enter your email address;
- Reset your password to access the system.

If you receive a message indicating you don't have an account, please send an email to sca@la.gov to request one; include your school name and school system in the body of the message.

Financial Aid Event Planning

Please share this information with the appropriate staff at your school.

It's not too early to start planning your financial aid events for this year! The [FAFSA](#) for the 2019-2020 school year opens on October 1, 2018, and many school systems have already started planning around that date. If you already have an event planned, please email ldefinancialaid@la.gov to have it added to the [Regional Calendar of Events](#) on the [LDOE Financial Aid web page](#).



Reminder: The [Louisiana Department of Education \(LDOE\)](#), the [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance \(LOSFA\)](#), and the [Louisiana Education Loan Authority \(LELA\)](#) are available to lend support. Please email any or all of these offices to discuss your site's needs.

- LDOE: ldefinancialaid@la.gov
- LOSFA: breanna.paul@la.gov
- LELA: carmichael@lpfa.com

Free Resources from the US Army

March2Success is a website with free online study materials to help students improve their scores on state tests, college entrance exams, and other standardized assessments. Content includes self-paced study programs in math, English and science, with a focus on materials for grades 8-12. March2Success also includes information to help students navigate the entire college and financial aid application processes.

Educators, parents, and mentors can find more information on the [March2Success](#) website or by emailing jerrick.l.hornbeak.civ@mail.mil.

American College of Cardiology Young Scholars Program

Please share this information with students considering a career in medical science (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, ultra-sonographer radiation technician, physician's assistant, medical engineer, researcher).

The American College of Cardiology's Young Scholars Program is a one-year program that will introduce budding scientists to the world of cardiology and research. Students will be paired with a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology for a dedicated year of mentorship and growth in science. Students will work directly with a mentor on a research project suited to their level of experience. The program will also include regularly scheduled webinars for students to learn more about current research in this extensive medical field.

This one-year program begins in March 2019 and will extend until March 2020. Our Young Scholars will join thousands of doctors, nurses, researchers, and other health care professionals at the opening ceremonies of the American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Sessions in New Orleans Louisiana and then work remotely with their FACC mentor over the ensuing year.

Please see the [Young Scholars Program flier](#) for more information.

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 Reminder

Please share this information with the appropriate staff in your school system.

The [Career and Technical Education \(CATE\) Data System](#) for 2017-2018 Career and Technical Education data closes on **August 31, 2018**.

Please email martha.moore@la.gov if you need assistance with this process.

Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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