

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

In This Issue:

September Spotlight: Lisa Hibner

Professional Opportunities

New Resources

Assessment Updates: ACT and WorkKeys

Middle and High School News

September 2018



September Spotlight: Lisa Hibner



Working in educational and career counseling, I hear career stories. Some of these stories are filled with tales of struggle, missteps, frustration, and confusion. I also hear stories of courage, inspiration, persistence, and fulfillment. When listening to these stories, there is something that I like to call the "ah-ha" moment. This is a moment of clarity, focus, inspiration or connection that starts individuals on their future career path.

According to the [National Career Development Guidelines \(NCDG\)](#), one of the critical domains for successful career development is an ***understanding of yourself to build and maintain a positive self-concept. This includes an ability to understand your interests and your abilities (talents).*** As educators, we create opportunities in which students gain an understanding of their interests and skills and are encouraged to explore their career identity.

You never know how one activity, one lesson, or one encounter may influence the future of your students. Last week I met Jasmine, who was only a freshman when she decided to visit with the AmeriCorps recruiter at the Baton Rouge Community College Job Fair. Participating in this career event changed the trajectory of her life. She completed the application process and was selected to work with AmeriCorps in a year of service where she traveled the country, working and living with a team of other students and serving her community. Because of her work with AmeriCorps, she received the job as a City Year Corps Member. In spring she will transfer to LSU to complete her degree in education.

Students remember experiences, and they need opportunities to develop their career identity. Because we work under the pressures of deadlines and testing, it is easy to forget the need for including career development activities within the school day, but students need opportunities to explore careers. November is **National Career Development Month**, and this is a perfect time to build in career activities for your students. For ideas, you can refer to [National Career Development](#)

[Month](#) web page and use the resources provided by educators and counselors. You may never know the exact long-term impact of your efforts, but it exists in the future career stories of your students. Give them something memorable - orchestrate those "ah-ha" moments.

Interested in doing more career work with your students? Then join us for one of our exciting Career Conferences:

- **Saturday, October 6, 2018:** [The Future of Work: Creating K-12 Career Development Programs with a Focus on Adaptable Career Decision-Making](#)
- **Friday, January 18, 2019:** [Career Connections Conference](#)

Lisa Hibner
Director, Baton Rouge Community College Career Center
Past President, Louisiana Career Development Association

Professional Opportunities

Register Now for the LDOE Counselor Collaborations

There are still seats left for the Fall Counselor Collaborations. Topics to be discussed in the fall 2018 collaboration include reminders for school testing coordinators, individual graduation plans, and policy updates. Please secure your spot by registering 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.

LCA Pre-Conference Learning Institutes

Are you going to the [Louisiana Counseling Association \(LCA\) Annual Conference](#)? The [pre-conference learning institutes](#) on Saturday, October 6, are an excellent opportunity to increase your professional skills and earn continuing education clock hours.

The three-hour workshops will be offered at 9:30 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m.

And don't forget: the conference is happening at the Baton Rouge Crown Plaza hotel October 7-9, 2018. Presenters from the [Louisiana School Counselor Association \(LSCA\)](#) will be hosting ten 90-minute sessions at the conference.

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 at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 6. Please see the [workshop invitation](#) or email 2016lcda@gmail.com for more information.

Nominate Louisiana's Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes [recommendations](#) from teachers, counselors, principals, district employees, parents, and community members. School counselors are uniquely positioned to recommend colleagues who demonstrate all of the following criteria:

- excellence in the field;
- leadership and innovation;
- collaboration with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success.

Please email excellenteducators@la.gov or visit the [LDOE Award Programs web page](#) for more information. Submit your nomination via the [online portal](#) by **Friday, September 28, 2018**.

New Resources

Internet Safety Flyer

[Act 369](#) of the 2018 Regular Session requires school systems to provide parents with information relative to Internet safety. The Department has developed a [flyer](#) for families highlighting this important information including the dangers of Internet pornography and cyberbullying. [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), and [Vietnamese](#) versions of the flyer are available in the [Family Support Toolbox Library](#).

ELPT and LEAP Connect Parent Guides

The Parent Guides for the [ELPT](#) and [LEAP Connect](#) assessments have been updated to reflect test information for the 2018-2019 school year. Please share these guides with families to help them better understand these assessments. Translated versions will be available in the [Family Support Toolbox Library](#) later this month.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions about testing or assessment resources.

Jump Start Updates

The Department has released a one-page reference document with [updates](#) to the Jump Start Pathways. These updates include the following:

- links to new pathways
- new course titles
- credential updates
- fact sheet updates
- new resources related to Jump Start

Please email jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Updates: ACT and WorkKeys

The **September District Test Coordinator** call deck is available in the [Assessment Library](#) under **Webinar Slide Decks**. Please download the file for important information about changes to [Bulletin 118](#) regarding WorkKeys. **The policy change is in effect for the 2018-2019 school year.**

- August 30-September 25: Place additional orders for initial test materials
 - *This is only for schools that placed initial orders and need additional materials.*
 - *To view the quantities of materials that will be in your initial shipment, follow instructions for "How to Order Materials" in the [PearsonAccessnext User Guide for ACT WorkKeys](#).*
- September 17: Districts will have access to WorkKeys realms to begin test setup
- September 20: [ACT WorkKeys Groups and Batch Load Training](#)
- September 25 10: [ACT WorkKeys Online Administration Training](#)

Please email assessment@la.gov for support.

Middle and High School News

Join the 2018-2019 Individual Graduation Plan Webinar

The Department is hosting a webinar to support professional school counselors with the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) and diploma pathway selection process. Participants will review the Guidance for Individual Graduation Plans and Diploma Pathway Selection document and the updated fillable form. The webinar will be offered twice.

To join the webinar on September 25 at 9:30 a.m.

- go to <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/421677509> or telephone 669-900-6833
- enter meeting ID: 421 677 509

To join the webinar on September 26 at 3:30 p.m.

- go to <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/923660733> or telephone 669-900-6833
- enter meeting ID: 923 660 733

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for more information.

New High School Planning Guidebook

The print version of the 2018-2019 High School Planning Guidebook is in its final stages!

Each year, the Office of Student Opportunities publishes the High School Planning Guidebook to help administrators, counselors, and teachers use key policies, programs, and resources to help both students and schools achieve their goals. Specifically, the guidebook focuses on the following processes:

- planning for struggling students;
- focusing on foundational academic skills in the first two years of high school;
- developing basic and advanced college and workplace skills;
- providing Jump Start opportunities that can help all students, in all parts of the state, create the foundation for a successful adulthood;
- counseling and supporting all students throughout their high school career;
- earning recognition for school excellence through an accountability system that rewards schools for helping students successfully pursue their college and career aspirations.

The guidebook will be distributed at the Fall Counselor Collaborations. The online version will be available on the LDOE [Louisiana's Guidebooks web page](#) on October 1, 2018.

Reporting for Supplemental Course Allocations (SCA)

All SCA private provider and dual enrollment reporting should be complete in the [SCA Portal](#). To ensure that all data is accurate, please log into the portal and run a summary report to see exactly what has been reported. If there are any discrepancies, contact sca@la.gov.

Reminder: Tomorrow, September 21, is the **last day to report as no-shows** any students who have not yet engaged in their courses with SCA private providers. These students will be removed with no associated tuition cost if the private provider reports these students by the deadline.

Financial Aid Support

Reminder: The [FAFSA](#) for the 2019-2020 school year opens on October 1, 2018, and 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 needs.

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

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