

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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January 2019



January Spotlight: Toni Brumley



Counseling in the 21st Century

As I reflect on my formal training as a school counselor, I realize that two of the consistent themes throughout were the importance of forming personal relationships with students and the significance of observing nonverbal communication.

It's certainly no secret that technology has evolved and is changing the way society lives and works; this is especially true of our students. With the rapid progression of technology, it makes me wonder from a professional school counselor's perspective: how can we still maintain those personal connections with students in a predominantly virtual world? Having the experience of serving as a counselor in both a traditional high school and for an online school, my experience has resulted in forming the opinion that answer is yes!

For many students, online school gives them flexibility and the advantages to have more frequent communication with their counselors. They aren't restricted to a counselor's traditional office hours, so if a need arises they reach out online. Often, students just want to talk to someone who will be there for them and will listen, and I find that they tend to be more open when we aren't face-to-face. They can really open up without judgement, and I can meet their specific needs in an environment that is comfortable for so many of them. Virtual advising isn't exclusive to online schools.

Many of the strategies that work for me in an online school also make sense for students in traditional school settings. Students can use online scheduling to set up appointments with their counselors directly. School counselors can share resources with teachers, students, and families in a medium that makes the most sense in each individual situation.

Fully online schools are not the only ones to use distance education to meet students' academic, emotional, and behavioral needs. Stand-alone online courses taken in conjunction with a brick-and-mortar school experience can provide students with flexible deadlines, expanded course offerings, multiple postsecondary credit options, and diverse Jump Start pathways and credentialing opportunities.

The belief that we can make a difference, regardless of how we reach out to students, is one of the most important aspects of being a school counselor. Technology is a driving force we use daily in our jobs. It's undeniably here to stay; therefore, we should capitalize on the opportunity to embrace it, acknowledge students' interest and engagement with it, and use that to foster good practices for serving students.

Toni Brumley, M.Ed.
Early College/Dual Enrollment Counselor
University View Academy

National School Counseling Week

[National School Counseling Week](#) (NSCW) is February 4-8, 2019! Check out the resources provided by the [American School Counseling Association](#) (ASCA) and watch for a special edition newsletter and tweets from the LDOE. And don't forget to tag us in your School Counseling Week activities!

Professional Opportunities

2019 LDOE Counselor Collaborations: Revised Dates

Register now for the Spring Counselor Collaborations. Topics to be discussed include Jump Start 2.0, Super Summer Institute, Quest for Success, financial aid planning, and Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Registration is open in [Eventbrite](#).

- [February 19 at Avoyelles Parish Media Center](#), 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
- [February 20 at Bossier Instructional Center](#), 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- [February 21 at Monroe City School Board](#), 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
- [February 25 at Acadia Parish Educational Center](#), 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- [February 26 at St. Charles Professional Learning Center](#), 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- [February 27 at University View Academy](#), 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*Please note the date changes for the collaborations at Avoyelles Parish Media Center and Monroe City School Board.

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

New Educator Blog

[Classroom Chronicles](#) is a new blog series from the Department of Education that highlights the inspiring work of Louisiana educators. The monthly blog will showcase an individual educator who is changing the lives of students, schools, and communities. *Classroom Chronicles* will be promoted on the [Department website](#), in its newsletters, and through social media, so this is an ideal opportunity to inform other about the unique contributions of professional school counselors.

The inaugural edition, "[Caught Being Kind](#)," features Kathryn Ferguson, the 2019 Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year from Caddo parish. In the post, Kathryn tells the story of how she is helping to promote kindness in her school through the Spartan Kindness Check initiative.

Please consider nominating a counselor, or other any other inspiring educator you know, for an upcoming edition of *Classroom Chronicles*. The short nomination [form](#) takes just a few minutes to complete. A member of the Department's communication team will contact selected nominees.

Please email doecommunications@la.gov for more information.

Early College Credit: Resources and Professional Development

The following resources and opportunities are available to help counselors advise middle and high school students about earning college credit.

CLEP Webinars

The College Board is offering a series of webinars about the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Topics include academic advising and best practices for implementing CLEP programs in high schools. Please visit the [College Board website](#) for webinar dates, titles, and registration links. For more information about credit by examination, email raphael.curtis@la.gov.

Freshman Year for Free

The goal of the Freshman Year for Free program is to make college more accessible and affordable for high school students, college students, and adult learners, including active duty military personnel, their families, and veterans. Modern States will pay for a student to take the CLEP exam after he or she registers with Modern States and completes the free coursework and practice questions. Please visit the [Modern States website](#) for more information.

AP Summer Institute Scholarships

The AP Fellows Program awards teachers, serving minority or low income students, \$1,000 grants at schools without funding for professional development. These grants are paid directly to endorsed AP Summer Institutes to cover the cost of tuition, and the remaining funds are sent directly to teachers to be applied to travel costs. Visit the College Board website for the [2019 AP Fellow Scholarship](#) applications. Although these grants are competitive, they are typically awarded on a first come, first served basis. Please contact apscholarships@collegeboard.org with questions.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Dual Enrollment

On January 14, 2019, the Board of Regents voted to postpone implementation of the 2.75 GPA eligibility requirement for dual enrollment academic courses. Academic Affairs Policy 2.22 has been annotated to reflect this decision and will soon be posted to the Board of Regents [Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures](#) web page.

Please email HighSchoolAcademics@la.gov for support.

2019 Teacher Leader Summit

Apply to lead a session at the 2019 [Teacher Leader Summit](#), which is taking place June 26-28 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

Interested parties must submit their applications online on or before Monday, April 1. Registration fees are as follows:

- **Now through March 31:** \$35 per day or \$80 for three days
- **April 1 through June 14:** \$45 per day, \$100 for three days
- **On site:** \$60 per day

The Department waives the registration fee for Summit presenters.

Please email doe.registration@la.gov with questions.

2019 Louisiana ACT Leadership Summit

The 2019 Louisiana ACT Leadership Summit, Preparing for What's Next in Career and College Readiness, is taking place on **Thursday, March 28, 2019**, at the Pennington Biomedical Research Conference Center in Baton Rouge.

The event will feature breakout sessions, keynotes, and networking time focused on preparing students for success in both college and careers.

Register and find more information on the [summit web page](#), or email shirley.antolik@act.org with questions about the event.

Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) Webinar Presentation Slides

Did you miss the IGP webinar? Please download the newest version of the [IGP fillable form](#) from the [Individual Student Planning page](#); find the IGP [guidance document](#) and the webinar slide deck in the [Counselor Support Library](#).

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for IGP support.

Middle and High School News

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

JAG is designed to serve high school students who are disconnected from school, family, and community. JAG specialists and school counselors share the common goal of helping students persist through graduation. Counselors play an important role in the selection of program participants, and JAG specialists work in tandem with educators and administrators to carry out the mission of this highly successful [national program](#).

Louisiana's JAG (JAG-LA) specialists also provide the following to selected program participants:

- remediation and/or tutoring,
- career and personal counseling,
- referrals to school or community-based services,
- field trips and guest speakers, and
- assistance with financial aid planning.



For more information about JAG-LA, email dianna.keller@la.gov or visit the [JAG-LA web page](#).

Allocation Deadlines

All SCA private provider and dual enrollment reporting should be reported in the [SCA Portal](#) by the Spring 2019 reporting deadlines:

- All reporting for **private providers** must be finalized by February 1, 2019.
- All **dual enrollment** reporting must be finalized March 1, 2019.

To ensure that all data is accurate, please log into the portal and run a summary report to see exactly what has been reported and add any new data. Please email sca@la.gov with questions.

2019 Louisiana Regional Science Bowl

[Registration](#) is now open for the Louisiana Regional Science Bowl® Competition. The top four teams will receive cash prizes, and first place winners will be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to compete for the national title in Washington D.C.

This year's regional competition is being held at the University of New Orleans on March 16 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

There is no registration fee for the event; teams are selected on a first come, first served basis.

Please see the [Regional Science Bowl web page](#) for more information, or email regional coordinator michael.anderson@spr.doe.gov with questions.

National Youth Science Camp

The National Youth Science Camp (NYS Camp) is a residential science education program that incorporates an academic program, outdoor activities, and various special events to provide recent high school graduates with a challenging STEM-focused experience.

NYS Camp 2019 dates are June 27 through July 20, 2019. Students must apply on [the NSY Camp application page](#) by February 28, 2019. For more information about the program, please visit the [program web site](#) or email nathancotten@tpsd.org, Louisiana selection coordinator, with any state-specific questions.

Assessment Resources

LEAP 360

- Teacher study guides are posted in eDIRECT under General Information>Documents>Diagnostic/Interim 18-19. LEAP 360 Teacher Study Guides are a combination of the answer key, scoring guidance, and a full-length copy of the test.
- Student access to LEAP 360 Diagnostic/Interims are active.

LEAP Connect

- The LEAP Connect administration window is February 4 - March 15, 2019.
- Sample LEAP Connect Constructed Response items and accompanying administration webinars are posted in the [Assessment Library](#). The goal of these sample items is to familiarize teachers and students with how writing will be assessed on the LEAP Connect.
- The [LEAP Connect Assessment Guide](#) has been updated to include new resources and is now posted in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#).

ELPT

- The ELPT administration window is February 4 - March 15, 2019.
- The [ELPT Assessment Guide](#) has been updated for the 2018-2019 administration and is posted in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#).

ACT

January 25 is the deadline to complete each of the following:

- Complete the [ACT Mock Administration](#) for any schools considering testing ACT online.
- [Install ProctorCache software](#) and [setup proctor caching](#) in [PANext](#) (ACT online testing only).
- [Verify](#) the 11th grade students and initial testing 12th grade students in [PANext](#). Use the [Enroll/Unenroll function](#) to add newly enrolled students who are **initial testers** eligible for testing or remove students no longer enrolled.
- Upload **repeat** 12th grade testers in [PANext](#) for ACT using the [Header Template](#) for the [SDU upload](#).
- Only students in [PANext](#) by the end of the day on January 25 will have bar code-labeled tests.

In Case You Missed It

[GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS VISITS JAG PROGRAM \(LA\)](#)

[ON THE FRONT LINES: THE CHANGING ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS](#)

[ABSENTEEISM, TEACHER STRESS, AND SCHOOL SAFETY: SCHOOL CLIMATE FACTORS TO WATCH IN 2019](#)

[RHODE ISLAND NAMES DEAF MAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR](#)

[EDUCATION DEPT. STEPS UP TO HELP STUDENTS STYMIED BY FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS](#)

[JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES: THE NATION'S PREMIER EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY PROGRAM](#)



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