

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

In This Issue:

December Spotlight: Michelle Vaughn

National School Counseling Week

Professional Opportunities

Middle and High School News

Assessment Resources

December 2018



December Spotlight: Michelle Vaughn



When we think of special populations in schools, we typically consider students with disabilities, English language learners, and struggling learners. However, in every school, there are many other groups of students who require special attention. This can include students with specific career interests, students who are highly academically motivated and crave enrichment, and students who need a little extra personal support for one reason or another.

Regardless of which special population is being targeted, to best serve all students, we must start with the end goal in mind. Whether a student is trying to be admitted to an Ivy League school, pursue a technical degree in a particular field, or be the first in his/her family to graduate high school, we can help identify and overcome any potential obstacles while also building on a student's current strengths. By being proactive in identifying a student's postsecondary plans, decisions can be made early on to ensure the student is scheduled into the appropriate courses, takes advantage of meaningful extracurricular activities, and receives the necessary support and guidance to stay on track toward realizing his/her goals.

At Brusly High School, the counselors utilize this "backwards design" mindset by sitting one-on-one with each student to complete his/her Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). This process begins before students even begin classes at Brusly High School, as they prepare to schedule courses for their 9th grade year, and continues each year as students progress toward graduation. During these individual meetings each school year, students express their career interests and goals and postsecondary educational plans. This information is used by the counselors to schedule students in the proper courses and, at the end of the 10th grade year, identify the appropriate diploma type.

Career goals identified on the IGP are also recorded and tracked by the counselors to nominate students for enrichment programs, extracurricular events, and awards and scholarships.

While using the IGP to make student schedule requests, we often notice trends in career interests and course requests. By keeping our finger on the pulse of our students' needs, and knowing what opportunities are available to them, we are able to adjust to meet the needs and desires of our students. I have found the annual Jump Start Convention is the best way I can stay current on career and technical course offerings and credentials, and I am looking forward to learning more at this year's event.

At Brusly, we also use the IGP to identify and track Industry-Based Credentials (IBCs) students will need or have earned during their high school career. This information is communicated with our CTE teachers who work diligently to ensure students are prepared to earn the IBCs they will need to graduate and pursue postsecondary career plans.

Because IGPs are uploaded with a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), the IEP team also uses the form to track progress and monitor the transition from high school to postsecondary education. Not only do we use the IGP to collaborate with teachers, students, and parents, we can also use the information gathered on the IGP to consult with outside providers like Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, Career Compass, or postsecondary schools to provide additional resources.

Backwards design using IGPs helps us to identify special groups, make plans to meet their needs, and allows us to be proactive rather than reactive. By beginning with the end in mind, we are setting ALL of our students up for success, whatever that may look for each student.

Michelle Vaughn, M.Ed.
Junior and Senior School Counselor
Brusly High School

National School Counseling Week

[National School Counseling Week](#) is right around the corner! From February 4-8, 2019, school counselors across the country will be promoting the many ways they can support their colleagues, their students, and their communities.



In the coming weeks, the LDOE will be sharing ideas and resources for School Counseling Week, but we also want to know what you have in the works. Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov if you would like to share your ideas in an upcoming newsletter or if you need help starting something in your community.

Professional Opportunities

Counseling and Advocacy Awards

The deadline to submit nominations for elementary, middle, and high school School Counselor of the Year has been extended. **Please nominate yourself or someone else by January 15, 2019.**

In addition to recognizing professional school counselors, the Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA) also presents an [award](#) to a postsecondary counselor, an administrator or supervisor, and a legislator. You may also nominate individuals to be recognized for advocacy or professional writing. **Please inform your nominee(s) that their applications will be due February 15, 2019.**

See the [award page](#) or the [award information sheet](#) for more information. The LSCA will recommend the state winner for recognition in Washington, DC.

Registration Update: Jump Start Convention and Behavioral Intervention Summit

Please note that the registration platform for the [2019 Jump Start Convention on January 29](#) and the [Behavioral Intervention Summit on January 30](#) has moved to [Eventbrite](#).

For individuals who previously registered through Wisdomwhere, no additional registration is required. **Registration for both the Jump Start Convention and the Behavioral Intervention Summit closes on January 2, 2019.**

Visit the [Eventbrite page](#) to register for the [2019 Jump Start Convention](#) or the [2019 Behavioral Intervention Summit](#), both of which are being held at the [Raising Cane's River Center](#) in Baton Rouge.

Please email info@louisianacareerdevelopment.org for more information.

2019 Career Connections Conference

Join the [Louisiana Career Development Association](#) (LCDA) for the Annual Career Connections Conference. This year's conference speaker is NCDA President Spencer "Skip" Niles, Dean of the School of Education, College of William & Mary.

Date: Friday, January 18, 2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Registration: [Eventbrite](#)

The conference is approved for six continuing education units.

Please see the [conference web page](#) page or [email](#) LCDA for more information.

FAFSA Workshop from LOSFA

LOSFA is sponsoring a workshop on FAFSA, **Conquering the Three Cs: Codes, Corrections and Completion**. Guest trainer John Gilligan has extensive knowledge of financial aid processes from the USDOE and FSA viewpoint.

This workshop is open to high school counselors and other school personnel who work directly with seniors and FAFSA completion.

Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Time: 8:00 a.m.-noon

Location: 602 N. 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Registration: [LOSFA site](#)

Parking is available in the garage across the street.

Registration will remain open until at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019, or until all available spaces have been filled. Please email Rhonda.Bridevaux@la.gov for more information.

Middle and High School News

Be a Jump Start Influencer

The LDOE is reviewing Jump Start in order to define a new vision for the next five years. The LDOE introduced this project at the October Counselor Collaborations, but there was insufficient time to gather your thoughts on this work. We have created two avenues for you to contribute your ideas:

1. Take ten minutes to share your thoughts in the brief [Jump Start 2.0 Questionnaire](#);
2. Attend the counselor-specific session during the 2019 Jump Start Convention to provide input on this important work.

Please share your expertise to help us take Jump Start to the next level. Email jumpstart@la.gov for more information.

Supplemental Course Allocations (SCA) Spring Enrollments

Registration for Course Choice Spring 2019 closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2019. **Please note that schools register students directly with course providers and higher education institutions.** Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Schools must document all SCA dual enrollment and private provider enrollments in the [Course Choice Registration System](#) by the end of registration deadlines in order to fund the courses with SCA allocations.

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

- February 1, 2019: all reporting for private providers must be finalized.
- March 1, 2019: all dual enrollment reporting must be finalized.

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 to add any new data. Please email sca@la.gov if you have any questions.

Federal Policy on Military Recruiting in Schools

By federal law according to 20 U.S.C. 7908, all school systems that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must provide students' names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters unless the student's parents or guardians have individually opted out of providing this information. **Local education authorities cannot adopt a blanket opt-out policy, and 20 U.S.C. 7908 supersedes any conflicting state law.**

In addition, please be mindful that school systems must allow equal access and accommodation to all branches of services in accordance with a consistent application of their local policies. Students who are interested in joining the military after high school should be allowed to receive information from all branches of service so they can make an intelligent decision.

Please email kim.nesmith@la.gov with questions.

2019-20 Kids' Chance Application Now Open

The Louisiana Bar Foundation Kids' Chance Scholarship Program is helping children achieve their dreams. The program provides scholarships to the children of Louisiana workers who have been killed or permanently and totally disabled in an accident compensable under a state or federal Workers' Compensation Act or law.

To be eligible, the student must be pursuing a primary bachelor's or associate degree or vocational education certificate or license from an accredited Louisiana university, community college, or technical or vocational and/or state approved proprietary school.* Students must also

- be a Louisiana resident between the ages of 16 and 25;
- maintain a C average or higher; and
- demonstrate substantial financial need

Go online to learn more about the [Louisiana Bar Foundation](#) and [Kids' Chance](#). The deadline to [apply](#) is Monday, February 18, 2019.

George Rodrigue Foundation Art Contest

The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts (GRFA) has announced its call for entries for the [2019 Art Contest](#), marking the foundation's 10th anniversary of the statewide program. The contest is open to all Louisiana high school juniors and seniors. **[Applications](#) will be accepted until January 18, 2019.**

This year's theme is the cosmos. Applicants are asked to explore the wonder, discovery, and mystery of the cosmos through an original work of art.

A group of 15 finalists will share **\$45,000** in college scholarships. Following the scholarship award ceremony in the spring of 2019, the 15 winning entries will travel on public view for one year as an exhibition at museums and cultural venues across Louisiana. For more information on the contest, visit georgerodriguefoundation.org.

Assessment Resources

General

- The [2018-2019 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is located in the [Assessment Library](#).
- The Fall Counselor Collaboration assessment presentation is located in the Counselor Library.
- Please contact your district test coordinator (DTC) for information about important testing dates and upcoming deadlines. The links below have multiple testing resources and information vital to state testing.
 - [Assessment Library](#) - monthly DTC webinar slide decks, information specific to all Louisiana state tests as well as ACT and WorkKeys, testing with accommodations
 - [Newsletter Archive](#) - LDOE weekly newsletters to school systems and monthly newsletters for counselors, teacher leaders, early childhood providers, nonpublic schools, and charter schools

Please contact assessment@la.gov for any state testing questions.

LEAP 360

- [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) is updated weekly to include added EAGLE 2.0 items for ELA, math, science, and social studies in grades K-8 and high school.

LEAP 2025

- The Fall high school testing window is November 29-December 14.

LEAP Connect

- The [LEAP Connect Administrator Training](#) is available to prepare test administrators for LEAP Connect administration.
- Sample LEAP Connect ELA constructed response items are posted in the [Assessment Library](#). These sample items familiarize teachers and students with how writing is assessed on the LEAP Connect.

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

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