

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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November 2018



November Spotlight: Kelli Schufft



"It takes a village" is a common phrase in education. Input from all aspects of students' lives is of the utmost importance to catapult them to success and proper advancement.

I am proud to say that through the years, the state of Louisiana has accommodated the educational needs of students. High school students are now able to make decisions at the end of their 10th grade year regarding the direction of their future. Students have the option to complete the TOPS University track or the Jump Start TOPS Tech Career pathway for graduation. I am thrilled to see the opportunities for our students to thrive within the career world when they choose the Jump Start pathway.

Due to the overwhelming response to Jump Start participation, I primarily work with Jump Start students at my high school. This allows the true individual attention and planning it requires for graduation. I am fortunate to work in an educational environment that allows me to focus on the Jump Start students. By choosing to make Jump Start a priority, my principal got creative with staffing and reorganized our counseling duties. Along with school-level reorganization, outpouring support comes from my Superintendent, Secondary Supervisor and my CTE Supervisor. Extended training is encouraged and welcomed to ensure success.

One obstacle I had to tackle included tracking IBCs. The business department here at Haughton High School lends their expertise and assistance when needed. Uploading IBCs and tracking spreadsheets are imperative in the Jump Start world, and the HHS business department rocks! I find myself poring over checklists repeatedly, and having the help of my colleagues makes a tremendous difference. I also recommend visiting the All Things Jump Start web page. The information provided there is exemplary. Another resource I find useful is attending the Jump Start Convention, which is held in January. The Jump Start Convention is informative and a great way to see what others are doing across the state. We can always learn from one another.

I am grateful for the local and state support I receive. Louisiana's Jump Start program has assisted in filling the state's high demand career industry fields, and the partnerships in North Louisiana continue to grow. Jump Start truly does give students a "jump" into their future, and I look forward to seeing what happens with Jump Start 2.0!

Kelli L. Schufft, LPC, NCC, NCSC
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Professional Opportunities

We Want You at the 2019 Jump Start Convention!

The [2019 Jump Start Convention](#) will be held on January 29, 2019, at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. Sessions include the following:

- Career Development and Planning
- Credential Tracking
- Externships
- Financial Aid
- CTE Leadership Academy
- Statewide Pathways: Health Sciences
- Jump Start 2.0, Jump Start After Hours, and Jump Start Summers

Registration is open until **January 2, 2019**. Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Behavioral Intervention Summit

The **2019 Behavioral Intervention Summit** will be held on January 30, 2019, at the [Raising Cane's River Center](#) in Baton Rouge. Sessions will provide participants with important information related to building effective multi-tier systems of support utilizing evidence-based behavioral interventions. Sessions include the following:

- Evidence-Based Behavioral Intervention
- Social-Emotional Learning Curricula and Strategies
- Implementing a Multi-Tier System of Support
- Trauma-Informed Approaches
- Classroom Management
- Cross-Cultural Competencies
- Alternative Education Redesign
- Data-Based Decision Making in Behavioral Intervention
- Bolstering School Climate and Culture
- Implementation Fidelity Measures for Effective Behavioral Interventions

Registration is open until **January 2, 2019**. Please see the [convention hotel list](#) for discounted rates or email behaviorintervention@la.gov with questions about this event.

LSCA Awards Nominations

The Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA) is accepting nominations for counselors who are implementing the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model. The counselor must have completed at least three years as a practicing school counselor and be currently employed full time. Awards and recognition are presented for elementary, middle/junior high, secondary, and postsecondary school counselors. The overall state winner will be recommended for national recognition at the ASCA [National School Counselor of the Year](#) Award Ceremony.

LSCA is also accepting nominations for those persons who have made outstanding contributions to school counselors or to the field of education with a special emphasis on the school counseling profession.

Please visit www.lasca.schoolcounselorawards.org to submit nominations for any of the following awards:

- Elementary School Counselor
- Middle/Junior High School Counselor
- Secondary School Counselor
- Postsecondary Counselor
- Administrator/Supervisor
- Legislator
- Advocate
- Writer (Professional Publication)

Nominations are due by December 31, 2018. Please see the [LSCA information sheet](#) or email info@louisianaschoolcounselor.org for more information.

LDOE Seeking Paid Consultants

The LDOE is looking for counselors who are interested in working as contractors to offer financial aid planning assistance to students across the state. We are selecting people throughout Louisiana to assist students with FAFSA completion. To qualify, applicants must be knowledgeable about creating an FSA ID and the completing the FAFSA. Consultants must be willing to work after school/evenings. Consultants may also perform outreach to schools to offer and organize FAFSA assistance. **The salary is \$75 per hour.**

If you are interested in learning more, please email ldefinancialaid@la.gov.

New Webinar from the Louisiana Education Loan Authority

Do you need professional development to help you understand the financial aid application process? The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) will be guiding participants line-by-line through the [FSA ID](#) and the 2019-2020 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) in a new webinar. The webinar facilitators will offer tips garnered from years of working with students and parents across the state and demystify the complexities of the application process. They will also share information about the stumbling blocks school counselors have encountered as they support students and families with financial aid planning.

Because the December 7 webinar filled up so quickly, Lela is offering an additional session at **10:00 a.m. on December 13, 2018**. Please email carmichael@lpfa.com to participate.

Also, please remind students to complete their FAFSA as soon as possible for a chance to win \$1000 for college. For more information, call 844-463-2372 or visit askLela.org.

New Resources

2018 School Performance Scores

On November 8, 2018, the Department released the 2018 school performance scores in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). School Finder is an interactive online tool that provides performance ratings of schools, school systems, and early childhood centers.

Please locate School Finder resources in the [Principal Support Library](#); email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Super App

On November 7, 2018, the Department launched a new school system planning process called "Super App" that aligns school improvement needs with federal and competitive funding into one application and timeline. School system leaders will work with school leadership teams over the next couple of months to develop strategies for improvement that will be included in each school system's Super App. For more information, refer to the [2019-2020 School System Planning Guide](#) or visit the [School System Planning page](#).

Financial Aid Resources

Please visit the LDOE Financial Aid [web page](#) for information about the Louisiana financial aid policy, the [Financial Aid Library](#) for resources to support students and families, and the [Regional Financial Aid Calendar](#) for the events happening throughout the state. Several new events have been added to the calendar; please email ldefinancialaid@la.gov to have **your** event included!



Counselor Collaborations

Did you miss the Fall Counselor Collaborations? You can get a summary of what was presented by downloading the [slide deck](#) from the [Counselor Support Library](#). The dates for the Spring Collaborations are coming soon!

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

Middle and High School News

Supplemental Course Allocations (SCA) Spring Enrollments

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.

Jump Start 2.0: The LDOE Needs Your Ideas

Since launching Jump Start in 2013, Louisiana has made impressive progress in offering high-quality industry-based credentials (IBCs) to high school students. However, there is scope to improve the industry alignment, rigor, and equitable access of IBCs. To this end, the Department is embarking on a review of Jump Start to develop **Jump Start 2.0**. This review is supported by an extensive engagement process that includes teachers, CTE leaders, counselors, school leaders, industry, and higher education; the process will continue into early 2019.

We'd love to hear from you! We are particularly interested in your thoughts on

- challenges with Jump Start today--things that make it difficult to provide high-quality IBCs; and
- opportunities to improve--ideas for strengthening Jump Start and making it easier to provide high-quality IBCs.

Please share your perspective by sending an email to jumpstart@la.gov.

Louisiana Envirothon

The [Louisiana Envirothon](#) is an environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12. Teams train and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. This year's competition will be held on April 13, 2019. Please consider organizing a team, and [spread the word](#) to other groups. Teams of five students should be from the same school or in an organized group such as FFA, 4-H, science club, etc. This year's environmental issue is Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.

The registration deadline is **December 12, 2018**; the team registration fee is \$50. Please see the [Louisiana Envirothon](#) website for training information, study materials, and the [registration packet](#).

Study Abroad Scholarships

The U.S. Department of State provides over 1,000 merit-based scholarships each year for U.S. high school students to study abroad in over 25 countries for a summer or for an academic year. These high school exchange programs prepare young Americans to succeed in the 21st century global economy.

Scholarships are currently being offered to assist students with developing their foreign language skills, increasing their cross-cultural understanding, strengthening their leadership capacity, and fostering new academic insights and ambitions. The application period is now open until December 4 for the [Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad \(YES Abroad\)](#) program, and December 11 for the [Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange \(CBYX\)](#) program.

Please visit youthprograms@state.gov for more information.

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.

Young Scholars Program: Deadline Extended

Through the the American College of Cardiology's Young Scholars Program, twenty Louisiana high school and college students will be paired with a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) for a dedicated year of mentorship and growth in science. This one-year program begins in March 2019 and will extend until March 2020.

The ACC would like to remind applicants to include letters of recommendation and high school transcripts. Please share the [program flyer](#) with potential applicants and visit the Young Scholars Program [web page](#) for more information.

The application deadline has been extended to December 1, 2018.

NCAA News

Free Online Course

In partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations, the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) has developed a free online NCAA initial-eligibility course. Counselors and coaches can visit NFHSLearn.com to complete this free course, which will familiarize them with the Division I and II academic requirements and the Eligibility Center's registration and certification processes.

Profile Account

The NCAA Eligibility Center's [registration website](#) recently created the Profile Page account. The Profile Page account gives college-bound student athletes the opportunity to make the best decision about their college choices earlier in their high school careers.



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