

August 2014

Back to School

illinois school counselor



ILLINOIS
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

The Official publication of the Illinois School Counselor Association
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The Mission

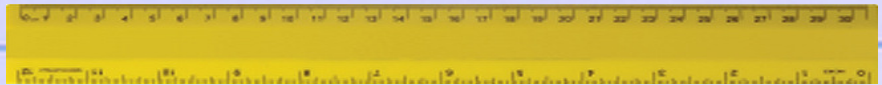
of the Illinois School Counselor Association (ISCA) is to provide leadership, advocacy, and collaboration for Illinois school counselors, which results in systemic change to enhance the success of all students in their academic, career, and social/emotional development.

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ISCA President's

Welcome



Welcome back to another school year! Whether this is your first, last, or 15th year, it seems that every year gets busier and busier. Not only have there been cuts in many districts, we have had to take on new responsibilities. We have had to do more with less.

requirements and be ready to share them with all of us at conference!

I think we can all agree that we love what we do and want to be helpful to the students we serve. We thrive on being busy and addressing the needs of our students and just helping in any way we can. Our career as a Professional School Counselor will always be demanding but it will also be very rewarding. Have a great year!

-- Nancy Penk

I recently spoke with a woman who said that her guidance counselor only helped her with college. I agreed and stated how things have changed for us. Not only have our names changed, our duties and responsibilities have also evolved. I believe we have preferred this evolution. We have advocated for these changes, evident in the recent unanimous passing of HB 5288 which more clearly defines "Professional School Counselor" in the state of Illinois.

The evolution of our role is also imposed upon us. For some of us this comes from our local administration and all of us, it originates from the many state mandates. This leads me to the theme of this year's conference, "Counseling to the Mandates". Sherry McLaughlin, ISCA President Elect, plans to bring our attention to the mandates and share ideas on how to address these many mandates. Please be thinking of how you meet these



Girls on the Run is a transformational physical activity based positive youth development program for girls in 3rd-8th grade. The girls learn life skills through dynamic interactive lessons and running games. The program culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5k running event. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness.



Learn About RAMP!



ASCA National Model
The American School Counselor Association

Drive your school counseling program to the next level. Show your administrators, school board and the community at large that you're committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. Apply for the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association.

The RAMP application process should be the culmination of the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program. Once your school has a program in place, you will need at least one entire academic year to collect the data and information needed to fulfill the RAMP application requirements.

RAMP

- Is based on the ASCA National Model.
- Is a recognition program for individual schools, not districts or school counselors.
- Gives you the confidence that your program aligns with a nationally accepted and recognized model.
- Helps you evaluate your program and areas for improvement.
- Increases your skills and knowledge.
- Enhances your program's efforts to contribute to student success.

RAMP Benefits

- An engraved plaque, suitable for display on your office wall.
- Communication sent to your school's principal and superintendent informing them of your exemplary school counseling program.
- Template press release to individualize and send to local press.
- Use of RAMP logo for business cards, letterhead, Web site or printed materials.
- School recognition at ASCA's annual conference.
- Two tickets to the RAMP awards celebration at ASCA's annual conference.
- Recognition in the ASCA School Counselor magazine and on the ASCA National Model website.

If your school's program successfully answers the question, "How are students different because of what school counselors do?" then you're ready to show the world that your school's program is "ramped up." Apply for the RAMP designation today.

Application Process

- All applications must be uploaded to the online application site by 5 p.m. (Pacific) on Oct. 15.

Learn About RAMP! -continued



ASCA National Model
The American School Counselor Association

- No late applications will be accepted or reviewed.
- Applications are reviewed for eligibility prior to the scoring process.
- Incomplete applications will not be reviewed, and no refunds will be given.
- The RAMP Review Committee is an independent panel composed of school counseling professionals. Decisions by the reviewers are final.
- All applicants will receive notification via e-mail by late January.
- The application fee is \$200 (\$400 for nonmembers). At least one school counselor at the school must be an ASCA member to receive the member rate.

Need help applying for RAMP? Want to know if it's worth your time? Not sure how to get started? Here are some resources to answer your questions:

RAMP Discussion Forum on the ASCA Scene
<https://schoolcounselor.groupsites.com/main/summary>

Examples of Outstanding RAMP Applications
<http://www.schoolcounselorawards.org/ramp/example>

Podcast on the impact of RAMP for a school
<http://ascaway.podbean.com/2013/09/03/ascaway-the-impact-of-ramp>

RAMP Monthly Checklist

<http://www.ascanationalmodel.org/Ascanationalmodel/media/RAMP/MonthlyChecklist.pdf>

Sample Video Response to Program Evaluation Reflection (component 12 of the application)
<http://schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/webinars/ramp.wmv>

Student-to-School-Counselor Ratio for 2014 RAMP Schools
<http://www.ascanationalmodel.org/Ascanationalmodel/media/RAMP/2014RAMPSchoolRatios.pdf>

ASCA School Counselor Magazine and Professional School Counseling Journal Articles

Reaching Out, Measuring Up
Becoming a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) school helps illustrate the difference your school counseling program makes in students' academic achievement.

- <http://schoolcounselor.org/magazine/blogs/july-august-2010/reaching-out,-measuring-up>

Learn About RAMP! - continued



ASCA National Model
The American School Counselor Association

ASCA School Counselor Magazine and Professional School Counseling Journal Articles - continued

Is Your Program RAMP-ready?

Follow this simple checklist to see if your school counseling program is ready to apply for RAMP status:

- <http://schoolcounselor.org/magazine/blogs/july-august-2010/is-your-program-ramp-ready>

RAMP and Student Achievement

A recent survey of elementary RAMP schools showed the impact a fully implemented ASCA National Model program has on student achievement and school performance:

- <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/magazine/blogs/july-august-2010/ramp-and-student-achievement>

A Districtwide Effort

Learn how one district helps all its school counselors work together to implement a comprehensive school counseling program and complete the RAMP application process:

- <http://schoolcounselor.org/magazine/blogs/july-august-2010/a-districtwide-effort>

RAMP Webinars

Take the On RAMP

http://schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/webinars/2013-05-01-14-01-2013-ASCA-Webinar-Series_-Take-the-On-RAMP.wmv

RAMP: It Starts with Vision and Mission

<http://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/webinar-learn-more-pages/ramp-it-starts-with-vision-and-mission>

Creating Effective School Counseling SMART Goals

http://schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/webinars/2013-03-21-14-00-2013-ASCA-Webinar-Series_-Creating-Effective-School-Counseling-SMART-Goals.wmv

Using an Advisory Council to Drive Your Programs

<http://schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/webinar-learn-more-pages/using-an-advisory-council-to-drive-your-programs>

Going for RAMP: Completing the Core Curriculum Results Report

<http://schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/webinars/Core-Curriculum-Results-Report-final.pdf>

Closing the Gap and Writing Results Reports

http://schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/webinars/2013-10-22-14-01-2013-ASCA-Webinar-Series_-RAMP-Closing-the-Gap-and-Writing-Results-Reports.wmv

The ASCA National Model: Unpacking the Components - Vision, Mission and Calendars

<http://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/webinar-learn-more-pages/unpacking-the-asca-national-model-components-visit>

Going for RAMP: Writing the Program Evaluation Reflection

<http://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/webinar-learn-more-pages/going-for-ramp-writing-the-program-evaluation-ref>

Past RAMP Recipients



ASCA National Model
The American School Counselor Association

Al Raby School for Community & Environment, Chicago
Amundsen High School, Chicago
Bloom Trail High School, Chicago Heights
Brooks Middle School, Bolingbrook
Buffalo Grove High School, Buffalo Grove
Chicago Academy High School, Chicago
Downers Grove South High School, Downers Grove
Elk Grove High School, Elk Grove Village
Evanston Township High School, Evanston
Foreman High School, Chicago
Harlan Community Academy, Chicago
John Hersey High School, Arlington Heights
Jones College Prep, Chicago
Kenwood Academy High School, Chicago
Lane Technical High School, Chicago
Lindblom Math and Science Academy, Chicago
Loyola Academy, Wilmette
Maine West High School, Des Plaines
Mather High School, Chicago

Michele Clark Academic Preparatory Magnet High School, Chicago
Northside Learning Center, Chicago
Phoenix Military Academy, Chicago
Plainfield South High School, Plainfield
Prospect High School, Mt. Prospect
Roger C. Sullivan High School, Chicago
Roosevelt High School, Chicago
Simeon Career Academy, Chicago
Southside Occupational Academy, Chicago
Steinmetz Academic Center, Chicago
Uplift Community High School, Chicago
Vaughn Occupational High School, Chicago
Von Steuben Metro Science Center, Chicago
Wendell Phillips Academy High School, Chicago
Wheeling High School, Wheeling
William Howard Taft High School, Chicago
Willowbrook High School, Villa Park



New RAMP Recipients 2014 at ASCA.
Including ISCA Board members Vince Walsh Rock (center),
Dr. Melissa Ockerman (4th from right) and Barbara Karpouzian (far right).

CICO Report

Daniel Stasi, MS, Executive Director , Lobbyist

Illinois is fortunate to have an active political advocacy system that supports all counselor interests. CICO (Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organizations) is a consortium of counselor organizations that focuses on legislative advocacy.

The CICO Executive Director is Dan Stasi. During each legislative session CICO looks at legislation that is being proposed and evaluates it support, opposition or neutrality of that legislation. CICO will also draft legislation that it feels is needed to make changes in existing Illinois laws. We also look at the State of Illinois legislative rules that are proposed and submit suggested changes or make comments supporting those changes.

The Executive Director will travel to Springfield to offer testimony at legislative committee hearings on legislation we strongly support and/or oppose. This past legislative session we supported several bills on behalf of Illinois counselors and Dan testified in Springfield on several occasions.

CICO worked on three bills that amended the School Code:

Illinois House Bill 4207-Cyberbullying

This bill adds a definition of cyberbullying to the School Code. It extends school action against cyberbullying to include that which takes place off of school property, computers, or events if it is brought to school and is creating a disruption to the educational process. Bullying policies must be extended to include a process to examine if certain bullying activities are in the school's jurisdiction and require providing information to students about the school's counseling services.

This is now law.



Illinois House Bill 5286.

This bill amends the School Code and it provides that 4 years of working in the capacity of school support personnel shall be counted towards a principal endorsement for a Professional Educator License. (Currently the law requires teaching experience for 4 years as the only option). The bill has a sunset date of 6/30/2019.

This will allow school counselors to achieve an administrative Principal Endorsement. Previously, only teaching experience would qualify someone. School Counselors could not become Directors of Guidance Departments, Special Education Directors, or Principals.

This is now law.

Illinois House Bill 5288.

This bill was drafted by the Illinois School Counselors Association.

It provides an extensive definition of the role a school counselor can have in a school. The bill amends the School Code for school counseling to further define the role and services of school counselors in the school environment.

It is now law.

In addition, CICO organizes and sponsors an Annual Day on the Hill. CICO DAY ON THE HILL 2015
Registration online at: www.cico-il.org
Wednesday, Feb 25, 2015.
Springfield, IL.

Illinois School Counselor Educator of the Year Award dedicated to Dr. Toni Tollerud

The Profession of School Counseling is one of the greatest professions in the world. Where else can we have such a powerful impact on the lives of young people, their progress through school, their choices in classes and activities, their career aspirations and college dreams, and their personal growth and development: we make a difference!

I have dedicated my life for the past 25 years to promoting this profession...my profession, as a counselor educator. It has been a fabulous experience and one that has connected me to many of you as students, colleagues, friends, and fellow professional school counselors. I have tried to lead by example in my desire to advocate for kids and our roles in the school. I have taken on key leadership roles and used these to influence administrators, parents, legislators, and people in the field. It has been a wonderful time. But no less important has been what I have learned and gained from each of you, your passion for what you do, for your dedication to others and to your participation in your school, the state, and in the Illinois School Counselors Association. I am so proud of this organization and I wanted to thank each of you for such a milestone honor last spring when you named the School Counselor Educator of the Year Award in my honor. I am so blessed by this experience. Thank you to all who belong to ISCA, who work tirelessly each day to help others, especially kids, and who dedicate your life to making this a better world. With respect, Toni



COUNSELOR DAY ON THE HILL ADVOCACY DAY

Join us Wednesday, February 25, 2015
in Springfield to lobby for your profession.



Reflections of a Graduate Student

By: Sarah Esslinger



As summer ends and I begin my final year of graduate school, I cannot help but think back to when I started my master's degree in school counseling program three years ago. I've come a long way since then, and am incredibly excited and honored to serve as the Graduate

Student VP for ISCA this upcoming year.

Graduate school is an incredible whirlwind of growth, knowledge and new perspectives. As I reflect on my last two years of graduate school, I smile thinking of great memories with classmates, late nights working on group projects, and enlightening classroom discussions.

I encourage all graduate students, at any point in their program, to become involved in professional organizations. Professional organizations, like ISCA, are a great opportunity for students looking to immerse themselves in the field. The amount of resources that professional organizations offer through publications, professional development opportunities, advocacy efforts and conferences is simply unmatched. As someone who is not from the Chicago area, professional organizations have been key in helping me network and familiarize myself with the schools and districts in Illinois. I have found that the best way to network in professional organizations is to get involved; challenge yourself to step outside of your comfort zone and seek out leadership positions. Attend events, specifically conferences, which is a major benefit of membership. During my first year of

graduate school, I attended a conference for a professional organization by myself and did not know anyone else there. It was intimidating; I felt like the youngest and least knowledgeable individual in the room. But, you know what? I survived. I formed new relationships with school counselors that have helped me grow academically and professionally over the last couple of years. I was captivated by the obvious enthusiasm and passion of the presenters.

As my final year as a graduate student commences, I encourage all graduate student members of ISCA to get involved, volunteer at events and attend conferences. As future school counselors, we have much to learn from our more experienced and respected colleagues. A new school year awaits all of us; best wishes to all ISCA members for a successful and enriching school year.



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The Reach Higher initiative is the First Lady's effort to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college, or a four-year college or university (The White House).

The initiative is focused on expanding opportunity for **all** of today's youth. According to the White House, the Reach Higher initiative will help make sure all students understand what they need to complete their education, including:

- Exposing students to college and career opportunities
- Understanding financial aid eligibility that can make college affordability a reality
- Encouraging academic planning and summer learning opportunities
- Supporting high school counselors who can help more kids get into college

So how can school counselors support this initiative?

1. Commit to creating a program SMART goal this year pertaining to the initiative and share it with your administration and school staff. The SCOPE (School Counselors' Online Professional Exchange) Reach Higher photo project gathered many school counselors' goals from all over the country, see them all online via: <http://bit.ly/1nZwCbg> for some ideas to get you started.
2. Watch the videos from the July 28 College Access event held at Harvard in conjunction with The White House to discuss strategies to improve college access via: collegeaccess.org.
3. Snap a photo in your college t-shirt or at your Alma Mater and share it on social media with the hashtag #ReachHigher.
4. Plan to work with your students, no matter what age group, to open their minds to the possibility of college and career opportunities. The National Office of School Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA) has prodigious FREE online resources to guide your way.

- Elementary Toolkit: <http://bit.ly/1t3od5x>
- Middle School Toolkit: <http://bit.ly/1rduqjO>
- High School Toolkit: <http://bit.ly/1uBwQbs>

5. Share the NOSCA Enhancing the Principal-School Counselor Relationship Toolkit (<http://bit.ly/1uXwDMT>) and the June 30 Key Policy letter from Arne Duncan (<http://1.usa.gov/1szIRKq>) with your Principal, Superintendent and Regional Superintendent to give them ideas on how to work with you. Include a personal note and something sweet (*cookies, cake, or if you have a prolific zucchini plant like I do, maybe some homemade zucchini bread*) to heighten the positive outcome.

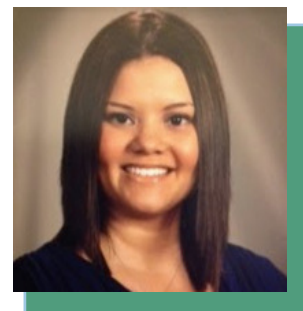
No matter how you plan to support the Reach Higher Initiative, know that your support matters, especially to the students and communities you serve every day.

A web version of this article, all corresponding links, and much more can also be found on the author's blog at www.SchoolCounselorSpace.Blogspot.com.

Readers can also stay up to date on the Reach Higher Initiative through various social media outlets: Follow @ReachHigher on Twitter and @ReachHigher2020 on Instagram.

References

The White House. (n.d.). The first lady's reach higher initiative. Retrieved from: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher>



“Counseling through the School Mandates” 2015 ISCA Conference Theme

**Sherri McLaughlin -
President Elect**

School is off and running and while we are doing more with less, we strive to get the job done efficiently and effectively. School counselors play a critical role in the areas of college and career planning, social emotional learning, and mental health awareness and support. Our education and training provides us with the skills to be leaders in our field and assets to our school districts and communities.

ISCA has been working hard with the school model and our legislators to define our role as school counselors. We are much more than guidance counselors. We are Professional School Counselors that can contribute to our buildings and districts and not only enhance but improve our school's culture and learning environment. In order to utilize all of our skills, without overloading our already hectic caseload, we must work smarter not harder.

“Counseling through the School Mandates” can aid us with just the right programs and tools to make all of these things possible. There are a large number of mandates that fall under the very categories that we received our training to earn our degree to become a professional school counselor. Some of these mandates include:

Erin's Law; Suicide Prevention; Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Abuse; AIDS education; abandoned newborn infant protection; bullying prevention education, child

abduction; child abuse and neglect; family life (emotional, psychological, physiological, hygienic and social responsibilities); mental health and illness;

parenting education;

safety education; sex education; sexual abuse and assault awareness; teen dating violence; violence prevention; conflict resolution education; college and career education; character education; internet safety; cyber bullying; disabilities instruction; mandated reporters; sexual harassment and discrimination; chronic health conditions; gang resistance education; 504 Plans; RTI; and children of deployed soldiers. Just to name a few!

Some counselors or districts may already have excellent programs in place. Others may partner with outside agencies to provide these services while meeting the mandates. You may have a program that you are itching to utilize. We can demonstrate to our administration that we can assist the districts by providing these services and meet the State mandates at the same time. This will serve as a dual purpose. You will be provided with the opportunity to utilize your training and administration will come to better understand the role of the school counselor. Mandates will be met and students will reap the rewards of social emotional learning.

ISCA will soon be asking for proposals for the ISAC Spring Conference. We are looking for sessions that will provide counselors with programs and tools to assist in meeting these school mandates. Consider contributing to the cause by presenting on a program that is successful in your school. Together we can make the role of the school counselor vital to all school districts grades K-12!





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**Illinois School Counselors:
Evidence Based School Counseling**

Sponsored by UTI and ISCA

Wednesday, December 4, 2014

8:30am - 12:30pm -- Earn 3 CEs or CPDUs

Location: Universal Technical Institute - Lisle, IL
ISCA / IACAC Member Fee: \$10 Non-Member Fee: \$ 15

Schedule

Registration/Breakfast: 8:30am - 9:00am

Workshop: 9:00am-10:15am

Break & Tour of UTI: 10:15am-10:45am

Workshop: 10:45am-12:30pm

Presented by
Dr. Brett Zyromski

ASCA LDI

ISCA leaders Steve Murray (past president), Sherri McLaughlin (president Elect) and Franciene Sabens (ISCA board member) participated in the recent ASCA Delegate assembly.

One of the biggest issues on the agenda was a discussion on the ACA 20/20 definition of counseling. ASCA leaders chose to retain their school counselor identity and did not agree with the ACA universal definition for school counselors.

Sherri and Steve also participated in the ASCA Leadership Development Institute (LDI). School Association leaders from all over the U.S. were present and shared information on their state associations. ASCA had special sessions for Presidents and President elects to learn tips and techniques for good state association leadership.



An abundance of licensed teachers

School officials who hire teachers who aren't properly credentialed for their positions often cite a lack of suitable candidates, in part because of teacher shortages in certain areas. But the most current state data available show that most fields actually had a surplus of newly licensed candidates available for hire. A higher ratio means fewer newly qualified teachers were hired.

Subject area	Newly licensed in fiscal year 2009	First-timers hired in 2010	Ratio of newly licensed to first-timers hired
Social science	5,293	188	28.2
Health	476	22	21.6
Foreign language (not Spanish)	257	23	11.2
English	4,511	478	9.4
Elementary	9,982	1,073	9.3
Spanish	788	91	8.7
Early childhood	1,099	143	7.7
Art	460	62	7.4
Guidance counselor	576	82	7.0
Science	1,813	278	6.5
Physical education	1,101	206	5.3
Math	1,812	373	4.9
Music	680	157	4.3
Social worker	392	124	3.2
Nurse	65	24	2.7
Bilingual	413	165	2.5
Special education	1,865	778	2.4
Speech/language	307	161	1.9
Psychologist	142	106	1.3

SOURCE: Illinois State Board of Education

TRIBUNE

ISCA Fall Membership
Appreciation Event
Ready to RAMP?!



Ready to RAMP?!
Recent RAMP winners
will share their
knowledge and experiences
of the process and talk
about benefits of their
school counseling programs.
Time to socialize, have
refreshments and
win prizes too!

Date:
Thursday,
September 18, 2014

Fee:
ISCA members - Free
Non-members \$10

Time:
6:30pm-8:00pm

Register online at:
<http://www.ilschoolcounselor.org>

Location:
Notre Dame College
Prep
7655 West Dempster
Niles, IL 60714





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ISCA Annual Conferences

April 10, 2015 Springfield Northfield Inn

April 24, 2015 North Shore Holiday Inn



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