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COUNSELOR

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION    SPRING 2013

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**END OF SCHOOL YEAR  
AND CONFERENCE WRAPUP**

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The ISCA Insight is published quarterly.

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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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

BY ERIN MASON, 2012-2013 PRESIDENT

The 2012-2013 academic year has been a productive and strong one for ISCA. I'd like to take the time to thank Steve Murray, President-Elect, each of the board members and our Executive Director, Dan Stasi, for their positive and ongoing work to support our members and move the association forward.

### Growth and Membership

This year ISCA added two new chapters, one in Central Illinois (CISCA) and one in Kane/Kendall County (KCSCA). A new Chicago-Land Chapter is also in the works to start in the Fall.

ISCA also developed a strong partnership with IACAC that resulted in shared advocacy work on the role of the school counselor in college counseling and membership conference rates for both organizations. Additionally, the Presidents and Presidents-Elect of each were able to attend each other's conferences. This partnership helped bring awareness to those in college counseling about the vast role of school counselors and generated practical ideas for how both groups can best work together for the sake of students.

Membership has increased to 627 members, up approximately 30 from last year.

Conference revenue will help to provide financial stability and improvements for next year.

### Awards and Recognition

ISCA boasts an ASCA 2012 School Counselor of the Year finalist, Dr. Shelby Wyatt, School Counselor from Kenwood Academy in Chicago and GLSEN's 2013 Educator of the

Year award, Matthew Beck, School Counselor from Erie Elementary School in Erie.

ISCA will also submit a nominee for the next ASCA School Counselor of the Year award, Dustin Seemann, School Counselor from Prospect High School in Mt. Prospect who received ISCA's High School Counselor award in 2012. ISCA itself received the "Friend of College Counseling" award from IACAC at their annual conference honoring the partnership that started this year between the two organizations.

At this year's conferences ISCA presented a record number of awards to its members including two new graduate student awards.

ISCA's President, Erin Mason, was an invited presenter on the agenda for eight presentations to all CPS principals and school counselors about the new Danielson-based REACH evaluation tool for school counselors. Additionally, ISCA's President, Erin Mason and Illinois finalist for the ASCA School Counselor of the Year, Dr. Shelby Wyatt, along with his principal, lobbied for school counseling on the Hill in DC in February and also presented together to an audience of 250 at DePaul on the topic of poverty and children's mental health in May.

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# 2013 CONFERENCE GLIMPSES

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Skokie Keynote Don Fraser



Presenter Amy Thompson



Presenter George Schlott



Awards Luncheon



Exhibitors



Springfield Keynote Mark Williams



# 2013 CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS

BY STEVE MURRAY, PRESIDENT ELECT AND 2013 CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON



The dust has settled from the successful 2013 ISCA Conferences and I am left with three reflections.

## > First, ISCA is a wonderful and inspirational professional organization.

As Dr. Toni Tollerud presented the 2013 ISCA Awards, we heard stories of dynamic school counselors and counselor educators who have changed the lives of their students. The award recipients' stories had a common theme:

- « School counselors make a difference in the lives of their students on a daily basis,
- «Counseling professionals inspire students in a solution focused manner,
- «Long term growth requires a positive impact from school counselors.

## >Second, school counselors are purpose driven professionals focused on students.

Keynote speakers Mark Williams and Don Fraser offered new career and college planning paradigms. Mark and Don reinforced the importance of having student focused school counseling professionals to support and guide students through the career planning process.



Laurie Siegel, Steve Murray, Erin Mason

## >Third, we are life long learners.

I was inspired by the number of ISCA members who attended and engaged to expand their professional knowledge. I was inspired by the depth and breath of the professional work that was shared in the educational sessions. I was encouraged that there were many first time presenters, a trend that I hope we can continue at our 2014 ISCA Conferences.

In closing, I would like to thank Erin Mason and Dan Stasi, as their contributions were invaluable to the success of the conferences. And, I would like to call on all ISCA members to sound off! A top priority for ISCA is planning conferences that meet the needs of our diverse professional membership. Please email me with your feedback on the 2013 conference and what you would like to see in 2014. [murray000@ameritech.net](mailto:murray000@ameritech.net)



Steve Murray, presenting in Skokie

# DR. SHELBY WYATT SELECTED AS CHICAGO BULLS- KIA MOTORS EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2013

Shelby is a long time ISCA member and a Chicago Public School Counselor at Kenwood Academy. Dr. Wyatt had previously been selected as one of five finalists for the ASCA School Counselor of the Year for 2013.

## **How long have you been teaching? What grade do you teach?**

I have been an educator for 26 years. I began as a day to day substitute teacher in 1987, taught business education at Sycamore High School, and currently serve as a professional school counselor at Kenwood Academy.

## **Why did you decide you wanted to be a teacher? Are there any particular teachers who have influenced you in the past?**

I became a teacher because of my uncle James Wright, Jr. who taught music in elementary school for over 30 years. I was influenced by my senior English Teacher Mrs. Benecia Williams.

## **Describe your favorite teaching memory or experience.**

My favorite teaching memory is when the light bulb comes on and students realize the importance of education as the catalyst for success. A current example happened when a graduating senior kept begging me to allow him to drop an Advanced Placement (AP) class because it was too difficult. I explained to him the importance of completing this rigorous course in order to prepare for college. He had a fear



of failure and did not want his grade point average to decrease. Although I gave him several study strategies, he believed that he would fail the course. Eventually he decided to trust me by utilizing my strategies and stayed in the course. It was a difficult process which caused him to struggle throughout the course. He constantly came to me for reassurance that he was doing the right thing. He barely passed the course and

***“You believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself.”***

did not immediately see the importance of the struggle. He attends a college in downtown Chicago. I bumped into him on the CTA. He was carrying a large portfolio case in addition to his college book bag. When he saw me he immediately started talking about his college courses. He opened up his book bag and shared with me in delight the subjects that he was taking. His face showed excitement as he showed me an architectural blueprint that was in the portfolio. I started to get up as

my stop was approaching. Devonte grabbed me by my arm and said thank you. When I inquired why he replied, “You believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself. I’m glad you made me stay in the AP class. It showed me that I can be successful. It taught me to not run from challenges. It taught me that I had to figure things out instead of giving up. It prepared me for college. I know I can now do this if I try.” That was one of my favorite teaching experiences.

## **How do teachers/educators impact the lives of their students? What do you hope that you personally can do to have a positive impact on the students you work with?**

Teachers make an impact on students by showing them how to accept education as the key to success. That requires educators to be non-judgmental. It requires that we use creative techniques in our application to keep students interested in learning. I try to provide a positive impact on my students by continuously providing hope using education as the great equalizer. I assess the issues, challenges and trends that kids face and provide enrichment opportunities to counteract their negative experiences. As a professional school counselor I take a holistic approach in educating a child.

# DR. SHELBY WYATT SELECTED AS CHICAGO BULLS- KIA MOTORS EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2013

**Describe how your professional role has made an impact thus far. What goals, if any, have you set in an effort to make even more of a difference in the future?**

My professional role has empowered many students to choose education as the catalyst for success. Many have gone on to pursue a post-secondary education in various careers. One of my main goals is to encourage students to become lifelong learners. I explain that learning is not confined to the four walls of a classroom, but should be continuous after graduation. Learning will be continuous as long as its fueled by curiosity. Curiosity promotes learning. I encourage my students to remain curious about life. I also encourage them to always be in a place that positively satisfies their curiosity and increases their knowledge base through learning.

**If your students could end each school year having learned only one thing, what would you want that to be?**

Do not allow the fear of failure to prevent you from reaching your future successes. I teach my students to be cognizant of this fear and develop strategies to overcome it so that they will not become complacent in mediocrity.

**What was your reaction when you learned that you were nominated, and then when you were selected as the Kia Educator of the Month?**

I was elated that Rachel nominated me for this great honor. It was a great surprise to be selected as

educator of the month. I don't ever expect to be recognized for the service that I provide to my students. I am rewarded each time I feel they accept the education of their mind as the key to immediate and future success.

**As Teacher of the Month, how will you spend your \$1,000 award money?**

The entire \$1000 will be given to the Kenwood Academy Brotherhood school based mentoring organization to assist in covering the travel expenses for the 2013 spring break college tour to universities in Iowa. The Brotherhood does not receive funding from the Chicago Public Schools. Many of its members are unable to afford the \$200 cost to see that being successful in college is possible.

The Brotherhood ([kenwoodbrotherhood.com](http://kenwoodbrotherhood.com)) is an organization that I created to promote graduation rates and postsecondary plans among adolescent males. Initially, because of the dismal national graduation rates, the activity that involves academic achievement, personal/social development, career exploration, and cultural comprehension was created for adolescent African American males. But over time, the membership of the Brotherhood has become diverse to attract males of all ethnicities to want to learn how to become leaders for themselves, their

families, and their school and within their communities. The uniqueness of this organization has also attracted females to also join in support of empowering males to choose education as the catalyst for success.



Dr. Shelby Wyatt (center) receiving the ASCA School Counselor of the Year Finalist award in Washington, D.C.

# GLSEN TO HONOR ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELOR AS 2013 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY SODEXO



NEW YORK - On National Teacher Appreciation Day, GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) is proud to announce the selection of Matthew Beck as the 2013 Educator of the Year, presented by Sodexo. Beck is a school counselor at Erie Elementary School in Erie, Illinois.

The Educator of the Year award recognizes an exceptional education professional who has enriched his or her community by ensuring that all students, particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students, are safe from bullying and harassment. The award honors an educator who works not only to ensure safety, but impacts measurable change that is visible within that person's school district and community.

"As a professional school counselor who embraces children for who they are, I am thankful and honored to highlight our present and future work towards ensuring that all our students feel safe, secure, and welcomed," said Matthew Beck. "GLSEN's Educator of the Year award inspires me to lead educational conversations about respect and to prepare school communities to be the advocate and role model that all students deserve. I am proud and honored to work alongside Erie educators who model perseverance and hope to all youth when handling setbacks in



life and ensuring children come first."

In 2012, the Erie Community Unit School District school board banned elementary school resources that teach respect for all families and address anti-LGBT name-calling. The district went further and banned GLSEN materials including programs like No Name-Calling Week, endorsed by more than 50 national education and youth organizations, and "Ready, Set Respect!," an elementary school toolkit created in partnership with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association for the Education of Young Children

"In our efforts to ensure that every

school is a safe learning environment for all students, GLSEN relies a great deal on the commitment and partnership of local educators," said Dr. Robert McGarry, GLSEN's Director of Education. "Matthew's story reminds us of how incredibly challenging the work of these partners can be in many places. As we recognize Matthew as our Educator of the Year, we not only celebrate his commitment and perseverance in doing what's best for his students, but we thank him for being such a steadfast partner in our work."

Beck has been a leader in his elementary school and local community to ensure the availability of resources and support for students, parents and educators during challenging times in the school district.

In the past year, Beck helped his elementary school to continue its participation in GLSEN's No Name-Calling Week. Beck also succeeded in securing developmentally appropriate family diversity resources for the school's counseling office.



# GLSEN TO HONOR ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELOR AS 2013 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Beck also created a family reading night outside of the school to further engage the school community. The activity was designed to offer children the opportunity to share in reading and discussing developmentally appropriate LGBT family-inclusive books.

GLSEN is also proud to announce that Tony Venetico from Barrington High School in Barrington, Illinois is the runner-up for the 2013 Educator of the Year award. A graduate of Barrington High School, Venetico is a high school math teacher and faculty advisor of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA).

Venetico has developed materials for his school to raise awareness about

creating a safer climate for all students and has supported the GSA's participation in the National Day of Silence.

## ABOUT GLSEN

GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. Established in 1990, GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. GLSEN seeks to develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes to creating a more vibrant and diverse community.

For information on GLSEN's research, educational resources, public policy advocacy, student organizing programs and educator training initiatives, visit [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org).

Matthew Beck is a member of the Illinois School Counselor Association.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

BY ERIN MASON, 2012-2013 PRESIDENT

(continued from page 3)

### Professional Development

In addition to our two well-attended conferences, ISCA sponsored two Fall workshops on the RAMP process and two Spring workshops on Landing a School Counseling Position. ISCA was also represented at state articulation conferences across the state in the Fall.

Our Illinois Counseling Model is currently being revised under the leadership of board member Melissa Ockerman. This version will be modified to be supplementary to the 2012 ASCA National Model and provide state-specific information. Look for this new version to be available through ISCA and ISBE sometime in the Fall of 2014.

ISCA members joined with IMHCA members in February

for a successful Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Springfield. In June, ISCA will send three delegates to the ASCA delegate assembly meeting in Philadelphia. ISCA members Erin Mason and Melissa Ockerman will also be presenters at the ASCA conference.

On May 23rd, ISCA will be a co-sponsor for the Chicago School Counselor Social at 10 Door Bar and on August 12, ISCA and DePaul University will sponsor C4C: Computing for Counselors at the Google Office in Chicago.

### Communications

Communications have been a primary area of focus for ISCA this year. To that end, ISCA has improved its website with more features still to come, added a digital newsletter created by ASCA, updated the look of its print newsletter and increased its use of social media with accounts on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Blogger and Google+.

# THE END IS THE BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

By: Franciene Sabens, M.S. Ed., LPC, NCC

As the end of the school year draws near, many School Counselors find there is little time left to check the last couple of items off of the to-do list, but here are five things that should not be left by the way-side.

**1. A Program Evaluation.** Every school counseling program needs to be evaluated annually by all stakeholders; including students, parents, teachers & administrators. School Counselors should also complete a program assessment & self-appraisal. All of these elements ensure constant program development & growth. As School Counselors those we serve change every year, our programs & services should grow & change too.

**2. Plan your 2013-2014 School Counseling Core Curriculum.** Once you've had an opportunity to review the feedback from all stakeholders & review the data from your program assessment, take some time to begin planning for next year's programming. Jot down ideas & preliminary goals that can be further developed over the summer or in the fall. Remember to ditch the "Classroom Guidance" terminology & adopt the new terminology "School Counseling Core Curriculum" to further align your program with the most recent ASCA model.

**3. Share program results.** Most school districts have final faculty meetings; take this opportunity to highlight your progress towards meeting your School Counseling goals, even if you didn't meet them. "Making Data Work," an ASCA publication, has one of the neatest & most well received formats I've worked with in a long time when



it comes to sharing data & results with stakeholders. I shared a DATA Report Form with 8<sup>th</sup> grade principals from all of our feeder schools and everyone in my district this year and I received lots of positive feedback about the layout and information shared. Also share your progress with your School Board, parents & the community at large; publishing your progress on your school's website can make this task less costly, more efficient & reach a greater audience.

**4. Show your appreciation.** Don't forget to show your appreciation to those who support your program & share their classrooms. Thanks to Twitter, I found a great idea for this one just the other day- feel free to add it to your toolbox.

Simply place a list of all faculty, administration & staff member's names in each person's mailbox & ask them to write something next to each person's name that describes them; then return the sheets to you. Take them home over the summer & create a Wordle ([www.wordle.net/](http://www.wordle.net/)) for each person on the staff to be handed out at the beginning of next school year with your faculty newsletter or hand them out on the last day for your staff. My district has an annual all staff breakfast at the end of the school year so I will have time to send everyone off for the summer with a token of my appreciation.

This activity will not only be a great tradition that people look forward to, but also a great way to build a community spirit within your school.

**5. Become more tech-savvy.** Let's face it; technology is not going anywhere so we must all embrace it and integrate it into our professional practice. Plan to learn more over the summer about some of the emerging technologies that can enhance your school counseling practice. I learned Twitter this year & it expanded my Professional

Development network exponentially. I also fully integrated WhatsNextIllinois into my School Counseling Core Curriculum; now my School Counseling Core Curriculum is mostly web-based & provides parents, faculty and administration the opportunity to become more involved in what I do.

The pressure to tie all the loose ends before summer is in full swing can be daunting, I can relate, especially since I am the only school counselor in my school with a ratio of 1:350. But, as Professional School Counselors we can also view the end of the school year as the beginning of new possibilities, celebration, time for program development, and maybe even time to begin the road to RAMP; the end is just the beginning.

# ILLINOIS COUNSELORS FOR COMPUTING

@Google Chicago  
Professional Development in Emerging Careers  
20 West Kinzie St. Chicago, IL  
Monday, August 12, 2013 ~ 8:30 to 2:30



School counselors, did you know?

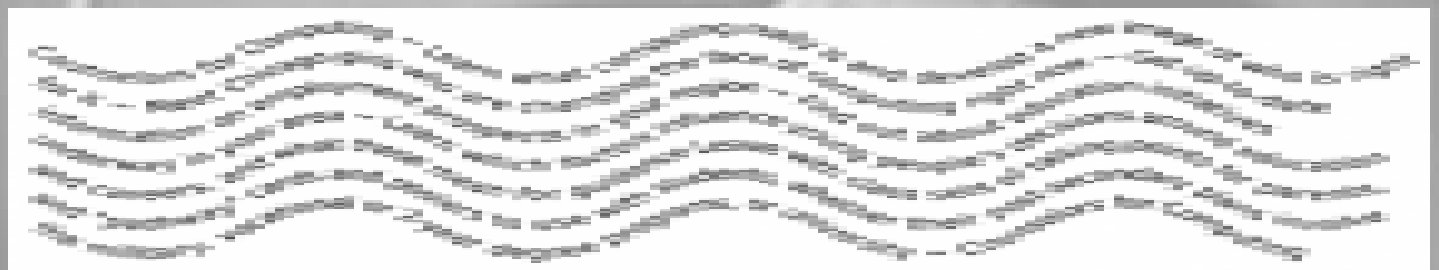
Tech jobs are growing in Illinois and nationally, but not enough students are prepared to fill them. Broader participation by women and other underrepresented people is essential to innovation and builds a larger talent pool. Given commensurate levels of education and time to graduation, computing occupations are more stable and pay better than other jobs.

Join us for Counselors for Computing to get information and resources you can use to advise about paths toward stable, rewarding and flexible careers, whether students' post-secondary plans include the military, or 2- or 4-year college.

Tour Google, a modern technical workplace  
Enjoy lunch with your counselor colleagues  
Receive continuing education credit

Program Partners: DePaul University, Illinois School Counselor Association (ISCA), National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Host: Google.

A \$20.00 registration fee for this program supports ISCA. In turn, NCWIT will give attendees a \$25.00 Amazon gift card. Program and registration inquiries [c4c@ncwit.org](mailto:c4c@ncwit.org)



Counselors for Computing is a four-year campaign through which thousands of students -especially girls- will be introduced to computing and encouraged to pursue education and careers in technology fields. We get this done by equipping counselors with up-to-date information and resources they can use to advise effectively.

# Upcoming Dates to Remember

## May 2013

5/12/2013

Mother's Day

5/27/2013

Memorial Day

## June 2013

6/5-6/2013

Midwest Anti-Bullying Conference-Chicago

6/16/2013

Father's Day

6/30/2013-7/3/2013

ASCA Annual Conference-Philadelphia, PA

## August 2013

8/12/2013

Counselors for Computing Workshop-Chicago

## September 2013

9/2/2013

Labor Day

9/4/2013

Rosh Hashanah Begins

9/14/2013

Yom Kippur

## October 2013

10/14/2013

Columbus Day

## November 2013

11/5/2013

Election Day

11/7-9/2013

ICA Annual Conference - Skokie

11/11/2013

Veteran's Day

11/28/2013

Thanksgiving Day

11/28/2013

Hanukkah Begins

## December 2013

12/25/2013

Christmas Day

12/26/2013

Kwanzaa Begins

## January 2014

1/20/2014

Martin Luther King Day

## February 2014

2/12/2014

Lincoln's Birthday

2/17/2014

Washington's Birthday

2/26/2014

Counselor Advocacy Day-Springfield

## April 2014

4/15/2014

Passover Starts

4/20/2014

Easter



# THE IDEAL COLLEGE APPLICANT: A WELL-ROUNDED SPECIALIST, NOT A 'JOINER'

Top colleges are increasingly after well-rounded student bodies of individual specialists: the football player, the poet, the mathematician, the physicist. So "it's better to be involved in fewer activities wholeheartedly over time, rather than nine or 10 superficially," and make an impact, says Katherine Cohen of IvyWise, an admissions consulting company. One math whiz she counseled founded a microfinance club at her high school and then raised over \$100,000 to fund projects in Third World countries; another spent three years researching his school's light bulbs, water flow, and air systems, then developed a sustainability plan that saved more than \$6 million.

"For me, my extracurricular activities have been really important—especially my countertenorship," says Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen (no relation to Katherine), who spent a good 25 hours most weeks honing his skills as a rare male soprano in class at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in New York, in voice lessons, and at various rehearsals and performances. He milked his musical bent to the best of his ability in his applications to 14 schools, including Yale, Harvard, New York University, and Columbia,

submitting supplemental performance CDs and an essay about how the music of Eric Whitacre, his favorite contemporary composer, helped him deal with trying times such as the loss of his grandmother. Realizing that lots of students had better grades and scores than his 96.87 (out of 100) GPA and 2170 on the SAT, he thought it best to emphasize "what I would personally

Excerpted from "7 Ways to Stand Out" in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2013. Available at [usnews.com/college13](http://usnews.com/college13). Copyright © 2012 U.S. News & World Report, L.P. Used by permission of U.S. News & World Report, L.P. All rights reserved. U.S. News allows republication of this excerpt without specific written permission or payment of royalties, provided



contribute to campus that no one else could."

Cohen got into 10 schools and is now a sophomore at Princeton.

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## Advocacy Day in Springfield

February 26, 2014 -Wednesday

Join with other counselors to advocate for legislation that impacts your profession.

More info @ [www.cico-il.org](http://www.cico-il.org)



# LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERYDAY

By Sarah Martin Macko, NCC, LPC,  
Counselor at Yorkville High School

I had no idea what to expect when I brought a group of 15 Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors on a school sponsored field trip to visit Benedictine University on Friday, April 12, 2013. Generally, our Counseling Department coordinates one college visit with students per quarter. This year we visited Lewis University in Romeoville, DePaul and Columbia College in Chicago, Waubensee Community College and Benedictine University in Lisle. On the first few visits we only invited Juniors and Seniors in order to target students who are currently in the process of making final college decisions. In the fall and winter, this worked perfectly and we had an overwhelming response and attendance.

On our most recent trip in April, we were finding it difficult to recruit enough students to fill a bus. Maybe this was due to the upcoming ACT/PSAE testing, maybe seniors had already made their decisions, maybe students had too much school work to miss. Regardless, I wanted to make sure we were providing opportunities to students to visit schools that they may not otherwise be exposed to. We are lucky to have a supportive administration that backs us in this effort and they encouraged us to take a group, even a small one.

I reluctantly opened up the trip to our Sophomore students. I say reluctantly because historically Sophomores have been characteristically more difficult to handle on field trips than upper classmen. This is not always the case, but when you do college visits you always run the risk of taking students who just want to get out of school and are not going to focus on or take advantage of the information being presented. I and 15 students, the majority of which were sophomores, loaded the bus and my apprehension grew. Most of the students on the bus were my students; many of them frequent flyers to my office. I crossed my fingers and attempted to display confidence as I reviewed the attendance, rules and agenda for the day. Once we got to Benedictine, it was up to the kids.

All of my anxieties were for nothing. Not only were my 15 students well behaved, polite and respectful all day long, but they demonstrated genuine interest in the school. My group of mostly Sophomores asked thoughtful questions, made mature connections and found inspiration by actually being on a college campus. I received glowing reviews from the admissions counselor and student tour guides that assisted us and I was incredibly proud of my students.

I think it was very beneficial to take some of those students who were having trouble understanding why they should try in school. Once on a college campus they could see the light at the end of the tunnel. The college "apple" that we constantly dangle in front of them became a tangible thing that they actually wanted. They witnessed independence that they could experience and programs that they wanted to study. Students who I have heard say, "I hate school, why do we have to be here?" were coming up to me and saying "Wow, I guess I need to try harder if I want to go to school here." I was floored with the positive impact this visit had on my students, especially my Sophomores. I couldn't have scripted it better. I was not expecting my Sophomores to connect the dots and they did with enthusiasm saying "Mrs. Macko, can I talk to you about starting a club at YHS?" and "it's time to start doing my homework." We even processed the trip when we got back to school and talked about ways to better prepare for the college selection process. Shame on me for underestimating my students in this regard. I plan on inviting Sophomores to attend our college visits in the future and I invite you to take a chance on yours, too. I plan to monitor my student's grades before and after the visits to note any improvement that may be attributed to the motivation found as a result of being on campus. This data not only provides personal satisfaction, but also reiterates the value of these visits for our students to administration. You really can learn something new every day as a school counselor and this is one time where I was very happy to be proven wrong!

## CICO Report by Dan Stasi, Lobbyist

We supported legislation to include a representative of school counselors on the state certification board.

**HB1002** would have added as a member of the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board one school service personnel certificate holder or holder of a Professional Educator License with a school service personnel endorsement who is employed in the public schools and who has been nominated by a statewide professional school service personnel organization.

The bill was opposed by IEA and IFT. It passed the House but failed in the Senate.

The Annual CICO Counselor Educator Summit will be held February 28, 2014 at NLU in Lisle.

Advocacy Day in Springfield is scheduled for February 26, 2014.

# MY FIRST ISCA CONFERENCE

## by Kelly Deal

Out of desperation, I emailed Mr. Dan Stasi regarding the lack of School Counselor jobs in that state of Illinois and what I could do to make myself more marketable. One of his suggestions was to register for the Skokie ISCA 2013 Conference. He mentioned it's a great way to network. I took him up on that suggestion and registered right away. As it was getting closer to the date of the conference, I wasn't really looking forward to going. I didn't want to deal with the traffic and mingle with a bunch of people I didn't know. As a person who wants to be a counselor really bad and who's been searching desperately for six years for a once attainable career, I really didn't want to hang around a crowd of lively and smiley people who were already counselors. It was hard not to have those out-of-place feelings. I was completely wrong. I actually had a great time. I never felt out-of-place and everyone I met was really nice. I even met people like myself who are also looking for those non-existent counseling jobs.

The workshops were great. My favorite was the session titled

"Professional Portfolios" presented by Laurie Siegel and Sarah Macko. Believe it or not, I never heard of a professional portfolio for school counselors. I thought only fashion models and art students carried a professional portfolio around with them. Ms. Siegel and Ms. Macko both provided their own portfolios for everyone to view and also provided some really great job search tips like getting more involved with ISCA, contacting everyone I know for job leads and what kind of questions to ask during an interview. I left this workshop feeling a renewed sense of confidence. I started tackling my own professional portfolio that weekend!

On a scale of 1 to 10 I give my first ISCA Conference experience a 9. I would have given my experience a 10 if it wasn't for that darn traffic and construction!

# ISCA CONFERENCE MENTORING SOCIAL

## by Tiffany Stallone

One of my favorite parts of the annual ISCA conference is networking. I am energized by the fresh ideas that school counselors and interns bring to our conference each year. With vast session offerings, a fabulous keynote speaker and a busy lunch and awards schedule, it can be challenging at times to find the time to connect with other school counselors at conference and still experience all the wonderful conference offerings.

With the focus of the conference being "School Counselors: Guiding College and Career Ready K-12 Students," it was only fitting that ISCA partner with the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) to host a "Mentorship Social" and offer a fantastic networking opportunity. In spite of our conference following one of the worst storms in Chicago, over 30 school counselors and interns gathered after the Skokie conference at Bar Louie to exchange ideas and connect. School counselors, new and seasoned, had an opportunity to get to know one another, have a cocktail and learn about the opportunities available for mentors and mentees through IACAC. It was a great end to a terrific conference and I hope the start of a continued collaboration between ISCA and IACAC. Both organizations strive to put students first and to help with post-secondary planning

so their connection makes perfect sense. Individually, we all have so much to offer and share with one another to best serve students. I strongly urge you to consider becoming a mentor or mentee and share your knowledge with a fellow school counselor. If you are interested in learning more about mentorship opportunities, please feel free to visit the IACAC website at the following link to learn: <http://www.iacac.org/mentorship-committee/>.

Lastly, a special thank you to Erin Mason, ISCA President, Michael Dunker, IACAC President-Elect, Dan Stasi, ISCA Executive Director and Beth Gilfillan, IACAC Mentorship Committee Member for all their efforts in helping to make the Mentorship Social a success. Without the vision and support of these key individuals, such a collaborative and positive relationship between ISCA and IACAC, would not exist.



# ASCA 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE PHILADELPHIA JUNE 30-JULY 3

## 2013 ASCA Annual Conference “Liberty and Learning for All” June 30–July 3, 2013 Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia, Pa.

**Pre-conference Workshops:** Start your professional development off early with a half-day or full-day pre-conference workshop on Sunday, June 30.

**Breakout Sessions:** Get detailed session descriptions for sessions on Monday, July 1; Tuesday, July 2; and Wednesday, July 3.

**Conference Mobile App:** Have a smart phone, iPad, iTouch? Download ASCA’s mobile app for the conference to have all the latest information at your fingertips. Plan your personalized agenda, access speaker handouts (after May 15), find room assignments and more. Download this free app at <http://crwd.cc/asca2013>. You can also access this information on your desktop or laptop computer.

**Keynote Speakers:** Don’t miss your chance to hear inspiring and educational keynote speakers at the 2013 Annual Conference. Speakers include Chef Jeff Henderson, David Marcus and Rachel Simmons. Learn more.

**CEUs/Contact Hours:** Meet your professional development needs in a variety of ways. Learn more.

**Hotel:** Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 10107. Rate: \$179 single/double occupancy. Reservations: Call (877) 212-5752 (mention ASCA to get the discounted rate) or make a reservation online.

Register at: [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org)





# CONFERENCE PICTURES



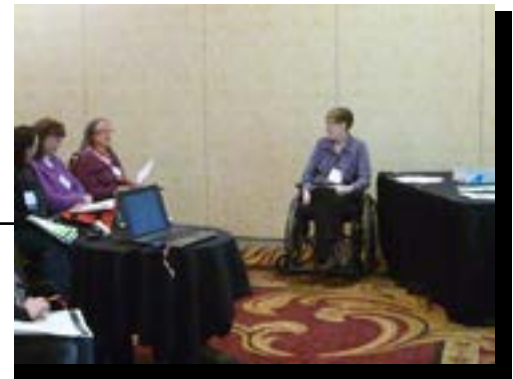
(left)  
Skokie Conference Registration



(right)  
Sherry Thomas, Springfield Pre-  
senter and ISCA Board Member



(left)  
Workshop



(right)  
Donna Kirkpatrick Pinson, Presenter

**2013 ICA Annual Conference**  
**Nov. 7, 8, 9**  
**Skokie, IL**



*Balancing the Dimensions*  
**of Wellness**

**Pre-conference workshop**  
**Full Day Thursday and Keynote on Friday**

# ISCA AWARDS PRESENTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE



(left)  
Karla Hoinkes receives Secondary School Counselor of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President



(right)  
Patricia Kohorst receives Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President



(above)  
Dr. Charles Meyers receives School Counselor Educator of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President

(below)  
Stephen Bild receives School Counselor Administrator of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ISCA AWARD WINNERS



(above)  
Teresa Gebhart receives Graduate Student of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President

(below)  
Megan Kelly receives Graduate Student of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President



(above)  
Virginia Fenske-Mathews receives Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President

(below)  
Lee Stanley receives School Counselor Administrator of the Year Award from Steve Murray, ISCA President Elect and Dr. Erin Mason, President





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# Spring Issue

**Save the Dates!**

**ISCA Annual Conferences**

**Springfield, Illinois**

**April 11, 2014 U of I -Springfield**

**Chicago Area Conference**

**April 25, 2014 Skokie Holiday Inn**

