

FALL ISSUE 1 2011

ADVOCACY

SCHOOL COUNSELORS UNITE

NOW!



▶ TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE OR LEARN MORE NOTIFY YOUR CTU DELEGATE OR CONTACT CTU VICE PRESIDENT JESSE SHARKEY AT (312) 329-6223.



▶ ATTEND THE SCHOOL COUNSELORS' SOCIAL SPONSORED BY CTU, CICO AND ISCA. SEE BELOW.



▶ GET INVOLVED NOW! SEE PAGE 2 FOR 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CPS SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

The CTU School Counselor Committee is a group of professionals committed to addressing the needs and rights of Chicago Public Schools School Counselors, defining our role, and promoting our value as educators in order to improve student success.

YOU'RE INVITED:

SCHOOL COUNSELORS' SOCIAL ON JANUARY 19th at:

SIMONE'S
960 W. 18th Street
at 4:30 p.m.

This Social is being sponsored by CTU, ISCA and CICO. Appetizers will be provided courtesy of CICO and ISCA.

Besides this, opportunities for involvement as well as updates on the current work and initiatives of ISCA and CTU will be discussed. Don't miss this opportunity to learn updates on current contract negotiation proposals and demonstrate your support while connecting with other school counselors in the district! Speak to your CTU Delegate to learn more!

Please RSVP your attendance to Kristy Brooks, Chairperson of the Counselors Committee at klbrooksie@gmail.com or reply using the web invite at <http://chicagoschoolcounselors.eventbrite.com> no later than January 15, 2012.



CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The CTU School Counselors Problem Solving Committee has submitted proposals to the review board regarding current contract language for school counselors. The proposals address the outdated recommended counselor to student ratio found in the current contract and also the role of the school counselor. Attend the Social at Simone's on January 19, 2012 to find out more!



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GET INVOLVED: TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW!

Simple things you can do to make your voice heard and make a difference.

1. Socialize with your colleagues and hear important updates at the **School Counselors' Social** hosted by CTU, ISCA and CICO at Simone's, 960 W. 18th Street on January 19, 2012 at 4:30 pm.
2. Be involved at a local level. Join the **CTU School Counselors Committee**. Contact Jessie Sharkey, CTU Vice President at (312)329-6223.
3. Be involved at a state level via membership in professional organizations. Join ISCA at www.ilcounseling.org. Join CICO at www.cico-il.org.
4. PEAC—The State of Illinois' committee on **new teacher evaluation systems**—has been conducting forums to gather input from educators. Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard! Find out more at www.ctunet.com.
5. Chime in about how to best utilize school counselors in the **longer school day proposed!** Contact Karen Lewis, CTU President at leadership@ctulocal1.com and Jean Claude Brizard, CPS CEO at feedback@cps.k12.il.us.
6. Join the **NPR broadcast** on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. when CEO Jean Claude Brizard takes your questions and comments about the state of education on CPS LIVE! To participate call (312) 923-9239 or leave comments and questions in advance by calling (312) 948-4886, emailing schoolsontheline@wbez.org or tweeting @AskBrizard. Get full details at: <http://www.wbez.org/series/schools-line>.
7. Request that counselors be included in the **VIVA Project**—an online platform designed to give classroom teachers the opportunity to participate in the shaping of policies – as well as CPS-led focus groups being organized by the VIVA Project.
8. **Spread the word!** Pick up the phone, blog, text, etc. to let your fellow elementary and high school counselors know about what they can do, in addition to, details about the CTU Counselors Committee, ISCA and CICO.
9. Never forget the power of stakeholders. **Promote your role as a school counselor** with parents, students, and community agencies. Utilize data to demonstrate your impact on student achievement.
10. **Implement a school counseling program integral** to the school. Participate in SIPAAA plans and address needs regularly.

ARE YOU AN ADVOCATE?



According to the dictionary, an **advocate** is:

- 1.) One who pleads the cause of another.
- 2.) One who defends or maintains a cause or proposal.
- 3.) One who supports or promotes the interests of another.

You can help yourself be a successful, happy, effective school counselor. . . Advocate. NOW.

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

ISCA offers its members the following benefits:

- Relationships among professional counselors engaged in elementary, middle school, secondary and post-secondary school settings.
- Professional development opportunities which may be used to fill required CPDUs for ISBE recertification.
- Four newsletters each year.
- Public relations ideas and materials.
- Professional alliances with other Illinois educational and counseling associations.
- Recognition for counselor, advocate and legislator of the year.
- Mentoring for new professional school counselors.
- Alliance with the Counsel for Illinois Counseling Organizations (CICO), a non-profit organization which advocates for counselors in Springfield.
- A voice in the Illinois Counseling Association.
- A voice with the State Board of Education.

ISCA annual dues are:

\$95.00* for a professional member (ISCA \$30/ICA \$65); \$52.50* for a student or retired member (ISCA \$15.00/ICA \$37.50); \$52.50 for the 1st year professional (ISCA \$15.00/ICA \$37.50)

*Membership in the Illinois Counseling Association is required for membership in ISCA. ICA dues are \$65.00. Membership is for 12 months, commencing with the month that you join.

To join ISCA: By Mail: Illinois Counseling Association, P.O. Box 367, Dekalb, IL 60115

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