

January 2014

illinois school counselor



Illinois School Counselor Association



The Official publication of the Illinois School Counselor Association



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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Keynote chose for ISCA Annual Conference

Springfield, IL • April 11, 2014 - Reaping More From What We Do



Susan Goodale is a dynamic and engaging national presenter and educational consultant with more than 36 years experience in education and human behavior. She has been keynote speaker for conferences across the country, and a provider of graduate coursework for Illinois State, Western Illinois, Drake University, Aurora, and Quincy Universities. In 1996 she was named to Who's Who in American Women, and became the first recipient of the Bradley University Education and Human Development Exemplary Alumni Award for Leadership and Innovative Professional Practice. As a speaker, teacher, and trainer, she travels the country more than 200 days per year to assist teachers, counselors, administrators, and parents in maximizing the success of young people in the 21st century.

With masters degrees in both educational administration and mental health counseling, she has been a teacher of high school, community college, and university graduate students, a school administrator, feature writer, marriage and family therapist, and a business and educational consultant who presents to audiences across the nation. She is a highly requested and often featured speaker at state and national conferences and holds membership in a national speakers' bureau and the International Platform Association.

Her expertise as a consultant and trainer includes prestigious appointments including the U.S. Dept. of Education Programs of Study for Small Learning Communities where she trained teachers throughout the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii in collaboration with Education Research Laboratories from 5 major regions of the country. In addition, she served as a member of the Illinois State Board Focus Group on School Reform and was the educational consultant for the state of Iowa's Kellogg Foundation *Vision 20/20* Project to work with Iowa State University and Iowa's 15 community colleges to prepare all post-secondary graduates for success in the 21st century.

As a school administrator and CTE expert, Susan was a member of the Board of Control for the Peoria Education Region for Education and Career Training, and she was a charter member of the planning team for a model workforce development program that was ranked third in the nation by the National Tech Prep Network. She also was an advisor for the Cooperative Vocational Education Training Manual currently used in certification training for high school and college Coop and Work-Based Learning directors throughout the state of Illinois. She has also served as senior trainer and consultant for Goals 2000 training for the schools of southwest Iowa, and directed the creation, planning, and implementation of one of Illinois' original seven model demonstration site high schools for Tech Prep.

In addition, Susan is a certified school counselor and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor who has received state and national recognition for her work with families and young people. She is also approved to do both Administrator Academies and Counselor Academies, and is an approved Professional Development Provider for teacher recertification in the State of Illinois.

Her professional awards include the Illinois State Board of Education School-Business Partnership Award, three-time winner of the Illinois State Board of Education Connections Award, the Optimist Award for Outstanding Service to Youth, the Golden Apple for Teaching Excellence as well as the University of Chicago Outstanding Teacher Award, the IVC School Service and IVC Pride and Performance Awards, and the Friends of Special Education Award for Exceptional Service to Students with Special Needs in Peoria County.

In her work as a school principal, Susan was the first administrator in central Illinois to create and implement a Renaissance program of student recognition to build school-business partnerships in celebration of student academic success.

In addition, through her work as a speaker, family therapist, and workshop leader for Behavioral Health Advantages in Peoria, Susan provides business training and personal and family counseling services to employees of over 30 companies as well as to community and civic groups throughout Illinois.

Skokie: IL • April 25, 2014



Lynn E. Linde, Ed.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor, The School Counseling Program, Loyola University Maryland

Ed.D. Counseling, The George Washington University

Lynn E. Linde, Ed.D., is Coordinator of Clinical Experiences in the School Counseling program at Loyola University Maryland. She is a former Branch Chief for Student Services at the Maryland State Department of Education.

She was the 2009-2010 President of the American Counseling Association (ACA) and is the current Treasurer-Elect of ACA and a member of the ACA Ethics Revision Task Force. She was the Southern Region representative to ACA Governing Council, Past Chair of the ACA—Southern Region, and Past President of the Maryland Association for Counseling and Development, and has chaired several committees and task forces. She is an ACA Fellow, a recipient of the Carl Perkins Award, the ACES Program Supervisor Award, the SACES Program Supervisor Award, and has received a number of other awards from ACA, its entities, and from the State of Maryland.

She presents on ethical and legal issues for school counselors and is the author or coauthor of several book chapters on ethical issues. She is a True Colors certified trainer and conducts workshops for associations and schools.

ISCA President's *Welcome*

As your new ISCA President I would like to update you on the ASCA Conference and share a vision for ISCA.

At the 2013 ASCA Conference in Philadelphia, I accepted an award recognizing ISCA for 50-years of service to Illinois School Counseling. The award acknowledges the positive impact that Illinois School Counselors have made assisting students with everyday issues, advancing and promoting student achievement, and preparing students for post secondary life. ISCA is a mission based organization supporting School Counseling Professionals. With our many talented, innovative and solution seeking ISCA members we can look forward to the next 50 years with confidence.

As we plan for 2013-2014 we are aware of the volatility in education. A clear priority is to serve our members and we will keep you informed of political storms in Springfield, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., and how they impact school counseling professionals. We are positioning ISCA to face this uncertainty through a focused advocacy plan that profiles our work with

students, parents and other educational professionals. The goal of the advocacy plan is to reach 100% of the Principals in the state.

We are building ISCA through partnerships with IACAC and ISAC. These partnerships will create new professional development programs for our members. The ISCA Board aspires to deliver comprehensive school counseling professional development programs for its members. I hope you will join us at one of our annual conferences in Springfield on April 11 or Skokie on April 25. The conference committee will be accepting presentation proposals in the future. Please consider sharing with your colleagues.



On a personal note, I would like to thank Erin Mason for her innovative work as ISCA President.

ISCA is here to assist, please contact me.
smurray@nddons.org



ICA's 4th Annual Southern Conference

March 14, 2014 · A Community of Counselors

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Collinsville
1000 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234
618.345.2800



ASCA Annual Conference



Keynote Speakers:

Pat Williams
Stedman Graham
Rosalind Wiseman

**More than 100
Breakout Sessions**

Location: Disney's Swan & Dolphin Hotel, Orlando, FL





I'm Coming Home

Sherry McLaughlin

"Well I'm going home,
Back to a place where I belong,
And where your love has always been enough for me.
I'm not running from.
No, I think you got me wrong.
I don't regret this life I chose for me.
But these places and these faces are getting old,
So I'm going home
Well I'm going home."

These are the lyrics from Daughtry's song "Home" which has been used in a number of You-tube videos, such as: the military, NFL football, and others. I was reminded of this song on my way back from the ICA conference hosted in Skokie, Illinois, in November. I thought about how these lyrics could be used in an ICA conference video.

It is always nice, year after year, to attend the conference for a variety of reasons. I thoroughly enjoy the camaraderie of fellow counselors and the networking within our organization. I am energized by the sessions and the wealth of knowledge that is shared. I thrive on the work of the counseling graduate students and the level of their enthusiasm that they bring to our profession. I grow as an individual and as a professional school counselor each and every time that I attend the ICA conference. I am reminded of the importance of belonging to a professional organization and being an active member. It is always a worthwhile and treasured experience to attend the conference as I travel down the path of counseling.

I recall looking around the room at all the familiar faces that year after year make so many contributions to not only our beloved profession, but also to the ICA organization. It amazes me that these professionals find the time to research and present on the topics that are surfacing in our ever changing world that keep us up-to-date and informed. These professionals are our pillars. They are our rock. They are our role models. I want them to know that they are the reason that the ICA conference feels like "home". They are the reason counselors keep coming back. I value what they have to share and say. I appreciate the work that they do each and every day to keep our profession moving forward into the next century.

The conference rejuvenates me to go back and do more in my career. It allows me to feel like I did on the day that I graduated that I can make a difference in my career. I get excited about making professional contributions on the job and with ICA and ISCA.

The conference reception theme for this year was "Get your kicks on Route 66". It was rather clever and innovative. We traveled across the Route through trivia questions, music, fun food and snacks. We reminisced about the past, present and what the future holds.

I thought about the people who worked so hard to make ICA a place to call "home". I thought about the new faces that were just starting to prepare their rooms. I thought about what obstacles might be on the route along the path of counseling. I thought about those that could not make it "home" this year. We talked about the past family members with love. We enjoyed the comfort of the family members that were in attendance. We dreamed about what our future family home will look like.

I want to thank all of the ICA members and volunteers that made the conference feel so welcoming and homey. It was a success due to your time and efforts. We had record attendance from familiar and new faces. We have made great strides in our profession and much more is on the horizon because of the undying dedication and work of ICA members.

What will our homecoming look like next year? If you are retiring, I want to thank you for your time and service. If you are moving away, I wish you the best in your future endeavors. If one of our ICA family members has passed on, may God bless them and comfort those that miss you. If you need to take some time away, may your needs be met and know that you always have a place to come "home" to.

We have some exciting times ahead of us as we travel down the "route" of the counseling profession. Who will be the next front runner in our field? What will be the newest topic along the road? What obstacles will stand in our path? The journey will be worth it by the "family" that we travel with and the knowledge that we have a place called "home".

In dedication to Dr. Nithya Karappaswamy, PhD., MFT, UIS Professor and friend. Nithya and I met during our very first class while earning on our Master's Degree at UIS in the Human Development Counseling program. She had come directly from India in August of 1996. She earned her doctorate degree at Purdue University. Nithya was employed as a professor at UIS. Nithya said she had returned "home" when signing her contract. We attended many ICA conferences together. She co-presented with a number of her students at the conference. Nithya passed away in May of 2013. She is deeply missed by her colleagues, students, family and friends.

Executive Director Notes

Daniel Stasi



Dan Stasi (center) CICO/ISCA
Executive Director, Lobbyist
with Illinois Senators
Durbin & Kirk

ISCA is continuing to expand its role in providing services to our members. We are working with UTI on an exciting event March 5, 2014 featuring Carolyn Stone. Our Annual Conferences will be featuring two fantastic keynotes and a great lineup of presenters. The conference committee are finalizing the choices this week.

We are busy working on a significant legislative issue with the redefining of the school code definition of a school counselor. It will not mandate specific responsibilities but we expect that it will guide the profession, school districts and school counseling departments for years into the future. We have solicited feedback from school counselors, school counselor educators and others. The result is a comprehensive approach to the role of the Illinois school counselor.

The Illinois Developmental Model has been updated and revamped and the new issue will be presented at our annual conferences. It represents a tremendous effort involving numerous volunteers.



Illinois School Counselors: Negotiating the Legal and Ethical Landscape of Schools

Sponsored by UTI

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

11:30am - 5:00pm -- Earn 4 CEUs or CPDUs

Location: Universal Technical Institute - Lisle, IL
ISCA / IACAC Member Fee: \$25 Non-Member Fee: \$ 50



Presented by
Dr. Carolyn Stone

Schedule

Lunch : 11:30am - 12:00pm

Workshop: 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Hour break & Tour of UTI: 2:00pm-3:00pm

Workshop: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Illinois Virtual School

Looking to supplement a student's schedule or fill in gaps on the transcript? Illinois Virtual School, the Illinois Board of Education's statewide virtual education program, is a credible and economical option. Because IVS is a state program, it must meet requirements of the Illinois Remote Education Act. All IVS teachers are Illinois certified, highly qualified, and IVS courses are ILS aligned and recognized by the NCAA and College Board. Over 200 schools across the state use IVS to fill in where students 1) need a course but can't fit it into their schedule, 2) are unable to attend school regularly, or 3) would like a course which the school does not offer. The IVS catalog is filled with enough options that students can access a multitude of core, elective and AP courses, all with an Illinois teacher attached and a support system built in. IVS has always differentiated its program by emphasizing the critical communication between school, student, and the IVS teacher as the key to student success. Tammy Kurth, a Counselor at Nequa Valley High School says, "Illinois Virtual is an excellent option for students to learn via the online experience and offers many choices in terms of class options and starting dates. The communication between school, parent, teacher, and student is consistent and a valuable tool. I highly recommend Illinois Virtual to my students."

This positive relationship with partners is the key reason fiscal year 2013 was a banner year for Illinois Virtual School students, and 2014 is looking to be even better. For 2013, IVS reported a 90% student completion rate. That is tremendous for a program whose students are working at their own pace, asynchronously, with classmates and their teacher. Illinois Virtual Director, Cindy Hamblin, and her team are not at all surprised at the positive results. "IVS has stayed focused on our mission to provide all students in Illinois access to high quality online courses. We have worked for the last four years to improve and expand the IVS catalog of courses and services. Options for today's student are more exciting than ever," she says.

Beyond student progress, IVS communicates with partners as part of its continual improvement and adjustment of course offerings. This needs-based approach has allowed IVS to focus its efforts most efficiently to present a catalog of high quality courses. Recently the demand for World Languages has skyrocketed so IVS has expanded the department by six courses. World Languages now includes: 5 levels of Spanish, 4 levels of French and German, and 2 levels of Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and Latin. IVS has also expanded its electives to include a full year of

introductory computer programming, Entrepreneurship and Digital Photography. Java Programming has also been added. In the core classes, all ELA courses have been reviewed for Common Core alignment and English 1 and 2 are brand new. IVS has also expanded the ELA department with skills level classes in Reading and Writing, ideal for students looking to ramp up their ELA basics. Geometry, Biology and Chemistry are new this year and all AP courses have been audited and updated if needed. Middle School is also expanded with new 6, 7, and 8th grade LA courses and 6 and 7th math, as well as World Cultures and Geography.

But the biggest change for IVS this year came as it ventured into Credit Recovery. The new program, released on October 1, offers 10 week courses based on prescriptive pre-assessments. What is really exciting to IVS partner schools is the presence of an Illinois certified teacher, a rarity in online credit recovery. The teacher grades some assignments and assessments as well as monitors student progress. This way, if a student is not keeping up, the teacher is right there to notify the school. Credit recovery is a way for schools to increase graduation rates and the IVS online credit recovery program has no set up costs, is web-based and can be implemented as early as freshman year to reduce dropout rates, and give students a brighter high school future.

IVS is optimistic about replicating the success of the original credit courses on the credit recovery side. So far, early indicators show that students and schools are appreciating the new model. For more information, visit the IVS website at www.ILVirtual.org or call at 309/676-1000.



School Administrator Reporting of Mental Health Clear and Present Danger Determinations Law

I recently attended a meeting to get an update on the new Concealed Carry Law and the impact on schools and mental health services.

This law is currently in effect. It went into effect July 9, 2013 But... There is not a system in place currently for reporting.

As more information becomes available we will keep you up to date.

Section 100. Short title. Sections 100 through 110 may be cited as the School Administrator Reporting of Mental Health Clear and Present Danger Determinations Law.

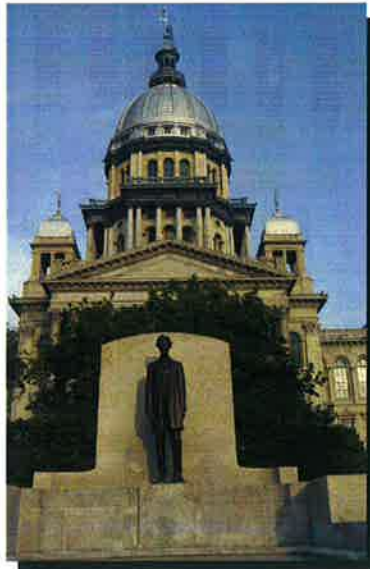
Section 105. Duty of school administrator. It is the duty of the principal of a public elementary or secondary school, or his or her designee, and the chief administrative officer of a private elementary or secondary school or a public or private community college, college, or university, or his or her designee, to report to the Department of State Police when a student is determined to pose a clear and present danger to himself, herself, or to others, within 24 hours of the determination as provided in Section 6-103.3 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code. "Clear and present danger" has the meaning as provided in paragraph (2) of the definition of "clear and present danger" in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act.

Section 110. Immunity. A principal or chief administrative officer, or the designee of a principal or chief administrative officer, making the determination and reporting under Section 105 of this Law shall not be held criminally, civilly, or professionally liable, except for willful or wanton misconduct.

"Clear and present danger" has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act.

Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card "Clear and present danger" means a person who:

- (1) communicates a serious threat of physical violence against a reasonably identifiable victim or poses a clear and imminent risk of serious physical injury to himself, herself, or another person as determined by a physician, clinical psychologist, or qualified examiner; or
- (2) demonstrates threatening physical or verbal behavior, such as violent, suicidal, or assaultive threats, actions, or other behavior, as determined by a physician, clinical psychologist, qualified examiner, school administrator, or law enforcement official."



Day in the Life of a Counselor

Erin Mason, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Human Services and Counseling, DePaul University



As a former school counselor turned counselor educator, I'm always eager to swap and share practical ideas with those working in the field, especially school counselors. I know how significant it is to hear those nuggets of genius that can truly make your work more efficient, creative, or more engaging for students. You know the ones I'm talking about because they make you excited and you cry out (out loud or in your head), "Oh! I could do that at MY school!"

These nuggets of genius can also come from school counseling graduate students too. They often have an innovative slant on the field, given that their knowledge of school counseling is mostly grounded in a theoretical perspective and not yet based on experience. I find this to be especially true with innovations that include technology. Michael, a former student and new school counselor, is a prime example of just the kind of innovation that I'm talking about. Take it away, Michael!



Thanks Dr. Mason! The idea came to me while working with transfer students during my internship at Prospect High School. Transfer students were not only coming from different districts but often from different countries. I saw a need for some kind of tool that could assist in introducing students to their new school, extracurricular and opportunities, and shortcuts on campus.

To start, I developed a visual, dynamic guide of the campus that could be used on the iPad. These days, iBooks are able to do everything from delivering information via plain text to interactive maps, videos, pictures, and even built in quizzes to help verify a student's understanding of the subject. Plus, students love using tablets! The guide leads students on an interactive tour of the school building. Along the way they learn about important people and resources. By the end of the tour the student is several steps closer to feeling more comfortable and "in the know" about their new school. Who doesn't feel a lot better by being able to put a name to a face, find the cafeteria, and know where to find the counselors office!

Day in the Life of a Counselor -continued

The pictures here show some screen shots from a tour of Prospect High School in Mount Prospect, Illinois.



After having about 40 students use the guide, I was able to review data that was collected about its use. Students overwhelmingly found the guide easy and fun to use. They felt like the information stuck with them. They also liked the fact that the information would always be available to them on their iPad as a PDF file or as an iBook. Based on the student feedback, I made some changes/updates, including adding more pictures, utilizing more interactive maps, and noting cultural elements for students coming from other countries.

Now as new counselor at Niles North High School, I'm seeing firsthand just how easy it is to convert the guide from one high school to another. 50% of my student caseload this year consists of international students and the need for helping them transition is even greater. Having a tool that's not only easy but also fun to use really helps engage my students. This guide also assists me in making connections with, and learning more about, each student that walks through my door. As students go through the guide there are opportunities to ask questions, have conversations, and check for understanding. It also allows me the opportunity to introduce myself to them as their counselor, advocate, and resource.

Overall, the guide is a living tool that changes and evolves with the needs of each year and each new student. The beauty is, it only takes a few clicks to make any desired changes and then it's back up and running, and ready to go. Dr. Mason, thank you for letting me share this idea and for all your support along the way.

(Reprinted with permission from Dr. Mason, originally in College Week live)

Counseling Counselors

A Story for All of Us

By: Alison Brzezinski

It has been a little over two years since I graduated with my Masters in School Counseling, and finding a job has proven to be the more difficult task. Actually, staying sane while not finding a job has been the more difficult task. Like everyone else, I have to deal with the every ups and downs of life while trying to figure why I have not been hired yet. Like other counselors, I have impeccable and numerous credentials, experience, excellent letters of recommendation, and have always been hired for every job I interviewed for in the past. Yet, none of these seem to be enough, and it is confusing, exhausting, and disheartening to be in this position. Today, I write on behalf of all of the counselors who are still unemployed, to ask for help from those who are employed, and to offer hope.

Month after frustrating month, I heard nothing back after submitting applications for every counseling job that was posted on the K12JobSpot website. In desperation, I decided to attend the ISCA Job Search Seminar at Oswego East High School last spring. It was there that I met Sarah Macko, a School Counselor at Yorkville High School, and decided to take her up on her offer to review my resume and talk about how to make myself more visible in the job market. Sarah very kindly agreed to meet me for coffee and spent over an hour talking with me about how to consolidate my resume, be more aggressive in asking for interviews, and to network more by being an active member of ISCA. She was right. I did end up getting more interviews.

After most interviews, I was lucky to hear back at all, but a few kind and courteous people called me back and let me know that they had chosen another candidate. One director, Sam Furrer, Director of Student Services at Urbana High School went above and beyond. His extra effort made a world of difference and couldn't have come at a more opportune time. He took the time to email me several months after interviewing me (and hiring another candidate) to tell me about another opening in a nearby high school. He told me that I was a "strong candidate" and offered to talk to the director at that school on my behalf. He could not possibly have known how deflated I felt or that his kind words came four days after my mother passed away. I was sorely in need of encouragement, and he took time out of his day to help someone who has nothing to with his school, district, students, or life. To quote the job application questionnaire, that is what I call "an outstanding counselor."

It is obvious that personal attention cannot be given to every counselor when there are 600 plus applications for a position, but an email notification that the position has been filled, at least to the interviewees, would allow them to move on to the next application instead of endlessly waiting, wondering, and hoping. For those who are still waiting to be hired, it is easy to withdraw and give up after trying for so long, but I recommend joining ISCA or at least reaching out to another counselor for help. I felt more in control of the process after working on my resume and networking. Who knows, you may run into someone absolutely inspiring, like Sam or Sarah, and be reminded why you wanted to be a counselor in the first place.

National Educational and Health Awareness Dates 2013-2014 Calendar

NOV. 13

American Diabetes Month
Lung Cancer Awareness Month
National Adoption Month
National Career Development Month
National Native American Heritage Month
National Family Caregivers Month
National Healthy Skin Month
National Scholarship Month

- 8 National Parents as Teachers Day
- 11-15 National Young Readers Week
- 11-15 School Psychology Awareness Week
- 11-17 Drowsy Driving Prevention Week
- 13 World Kindness Day
- 15 America Recycles Day
- 16 International Day of Tolerance
- 18-22 American Education Week
- 21 National Parental Involvement Day
- 21 Great American Smokeout
- 23 National Family Volunteer Day

DEC. 13

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
Safe Toys and Gifts Month
Universal Human Rights Month

- 1 World AIDS Day
- 1-7 National Handwashing Awareness Week
- 2 Special Education Day
- 3 International Day of Disabled Persons
- 5 International Volunteer Day
- 15 Bill of Rights Day

JAN. 14

Book Blitz Month
National Mentoring Month
National Blood Volunteer Donor Month
National Thank You Month

- 1 Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary
- 19 World Religion Day
- 20-24 No Name Calling Week

FEB. 14

African American History Month
American Heart Month
National Children's Dental Health Month

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 2 Groundhog Job Shadowing Day
- 3-7 National School Counseling Week
- 14-20 Random Acts of Kindness Week
- 23-March 1 National Eating Disorders Awareness Week

MARCH 14

American Red Cross Month
Gender Equality Month
Music in our Schools Month
National Middle Level Education Month
National Nutrition Month
National Women's History Month
Social Work Month
Youth Art Month

MARCH

- 2 Read Across America Day
- 3-7 National School Breakfast Week
- 8 International Women's Day
- 11 Johnny Appleseed Day
- 12-18 Girl Scout Week
- 16-22 National Poison Prevention Week
- 19 Kick Butts Day
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

APRIL 14

- Alcohol and Drug Awareness Month
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Counseling Awareness Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Mathematics Education Month
- National Autism Awareness Month
- National STD Awareness Month
- National Youth Sports Safety Month
- School Library Media Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 2 International Children's Book Day
- 6-12 Week of the Young Child
- 6-13 National Volunteer Week
- 7 World Health Day
- 7-11 National Youth Violence Prevention Week
- 10 National Alcohol Screening Day
- 11 Day of Silence
- 11-13 Global Youth Service Days
- 13-19 National Library Week
- 21-25 Public School Volunteer Week
- 20-26 Administrative Professionals Week
- 22 Earth Day

- 24 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- 28 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 29-May 5 Screen Free Week (TV Turnoff Week)

MAY 14

- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- Better Hearing and Speech Month
- Clean Air Month
- Military Appreciation Month
- National Bike Month
- National Mental Health Awareness Month
- National Physical Education and Sports Month
- National Foster Care Month
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

- 5-10 National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8 World Red Cross Day
- 8 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day
- 11 National School Nurses Day
- 17 Armed Forces Day
- 25 National Missing Children's Day
- 31 World No Tobacco Day

JUNE 14

- Fireworks Safety Month (1-July 4)
- National Safety Month

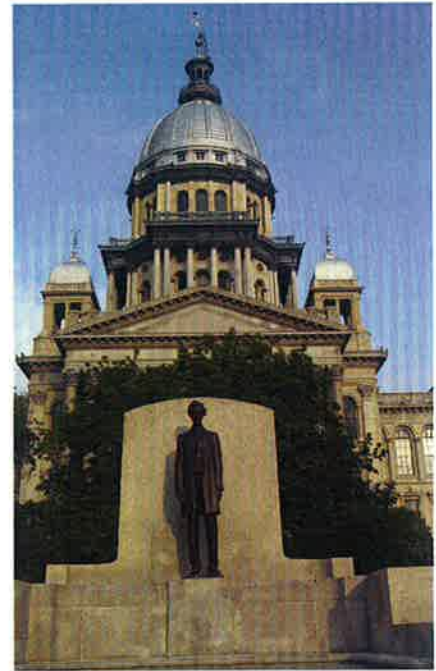
- 5 World Environment Day
- 14 Flag Day
- 19 Emancipation Day

COUNSELOR DAY ON THE HILL ADVOCACY DAY

Join us Wednesday, February 26, 2014
in Springfield to lobby for your profession.

- Lunch is provided by ISCA
- Starts at 10 a.m. and finishes by 3 p.m.
- Car pooling is available and/or you can take the Amtrak train

Registration and more information is on our website.
http://ilschoolcounselor.org/advocacy/advocacy_day.html



We hope that you will consider submitting a proposal for next year's conference. Do you have an idea for a workshop? Don't delay!

**2014
Annual ISCA
Conference**

Conference
Theme: *Doing
More With Less*
Chairperson -
Nancy Penk

April 11, 2014 -
Springfield Hilton

April 25, 2014 -
Skokie Holiday
Inn

Letter from ASCA

Dr. Sharon Sevier, Chairperson

I hope this email finds you enjoying your school year. It seems impossible that we are nearing the end of first semester and the beginning of the holiday season. Time flies for all, but especially for school counselors!

The ASCA Board of Directors met during the weekend of October 4. We were pleased to welcome our newest members: Dr. Patrick Akos, Bob Bardwell, Dr. Edward A. Mainzer, and Jan Updegraff. Their insights and ideas added to the robust discussions held during our meeting. The By-Laws Committee members were appointed at this meeting. Kris Moe will serve as chair of the By-Laws Committee, supported by members Bob Bardwell and Edward A. Mainzer.

This year, the Board is focusing on listening to and learning from our moral owners. The moral owners of ASCA are those individuals who are not school counselors, but whose positions do impact the work of school counselors. That group might include superintendents, principals, boards of education, parent/teacher organizations, and other educational groups. For the October meeting, we were pleased to have Noelle Ellerson, from AASA: The Superintendent's Association, join us. Ms. Ellerson updated the Board on legislative issues that impact education and she spoke about the unique positions of superintendents. Ms. Ellerson made the point that, often, we think of our superintendents as being the instructional leaders of our districts when, in fact, they are the business and financial leaders of our districts. Their job is to keep the district on firm fiscal footing...something that many districts across the country are struggling with.

When asked about the role and placement of school counselors, Ms. Ellerson spoke of the concentric circles of superintendents as they consider finances within a district: the middle circle represents the teachers; the next circle represents the facilities; the outer circle represents "others", and that includes school counselors. Rarely are school counselors included in the inner circle. When superintendents are pressed to make cuts, they start with the outer circle and do everything they can to protect the innermost circle. As districts are pressed to show improvements in student achievement, the school counselor's role too often remains an enigma. Superintendents simply do not know how impactful a school counselor can be on the road to student achievement. For school counselors, it's critical that we work towards being included in that inner circle.

As the Board continued to discuss superintendents' perceptions of school counselors with Ms. Ellerson, she took notes on ways that our two associations can collaborate. But the discussion increasingly led to the advocacy that school counselors need to be engaging in if perceptions about our roles are to change.

That advocacy cannot be solely the responsibility of ASCA; it is the responsibility of every school counselor to challenge the status quo, to use data to demonstrate the impact of our programs, and to educate our stakeholder groups as to what school counselors really do.

The Board will continue these conversations both in the board room and at the conferences of our moral owners. We are sending two board members to the conferences of the superintendents, secondary principals, elementary principals and boards of education to hold focus groups that address the perceptions of school counselors, and serve to listen and learn more about others' challenges and possibilities for collaboration.

As Board members, we encourage you to continue the conversations in your own states that we have started at the national level. When we come together in June at LDI/Delegate Assembly, we can share what we've learned, and discuss next steps in this journey. If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at seviersharon@rockwood.k12.mo.us.

Thank you for your continuing service to your state organizations, to ASCA and, most importantly, to your students. On behalf of the ASCA Board of Directors, I wish you a most happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Shari

Sharon F. Sevier, Ph.D., L.P.C.
Chair of the Board of Directors
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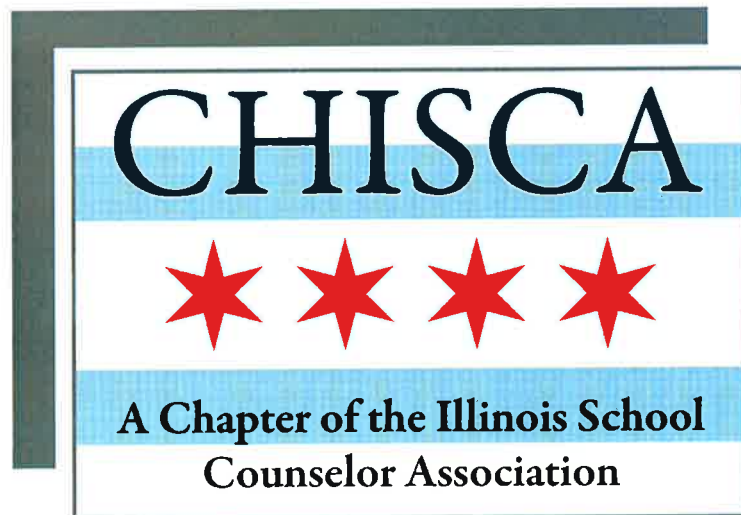


ICA Foundation Announces Grant Recipient

Congratulations to Heather Sadilek and hurrah for CHISCA. It was announced at the Illinois Counseling Association conference in Chicago on November 8, 2013 that the Chicago Chapter of the Illinois School Counselor Association (CHISCA) has been awarded the Merlin W. Schultz Grant. The \$1,000 grant was submitted by CHISCA's co-President Heather M. Sadilek. CHISCA will offer three professional development/ networking events - Depression Awareness/Suicide Prevention Training and School Counselor Self-Care are planned.

Directors of the Illinois Counseling Association Foundation made their selection from a competitive pool of applicants. Grants are awarded once a year, and vary in amounts. Three type of grants are awarded: Merlin W. Schultz Professional Development Grant supports participation in professional counseling conferences and enrichment programs; Melanie E. Rawlins Research grant provides support for conducting research projects in the area of counseling; and the ICAF Social Emphasis Grant supports projects and programs focused on addressing social issues in Illinois.

The Illinois Counseling Association Foundation is an organization providing support to professional counselors, graduate students preparing to be counselors, and entities improving mental health services in Illinois.



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