



In-Person & Virtual Sessions

Friday, July 10

3:00 PM - 7:30 PM CDT

Registration Open

3:00 PM - 7:30 PM , Friday, July 10

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM CDT

Volunteer Service Project: Meal Kit Assembly

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM , Friday, July 10

Overview:

Join other conference attendees in service project to help assemble weekend meal supplement kits for children who rely heavily on school meal programs for daily nutrition. You'll pack nutritious and easy-to-prepare food items such as cereal, snacks, packaged goods and other meal essentials to help ensure children have access to food over the weekend. Stop by at any time during the event, with each participant encouraged to assemble one–two meal kits that will directly support children in need and make a meaningful difference in the community. (Event lasts until all kits are assembled.)

Learning Objectives:

Saturday, July 11

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM CDT

State Coordinators Meeting (by invitation only)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Join other state-level school counseling coordinators for a meeting. By invitation only; preregistration required.

Learning Objectives:

Saturday, July 11

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM CDT

Level Meetups – Elementary and Middle

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

This is your space to connect. Meet up with other elementary or middle school counselors to share experiences, swap strategies and learn from one another.

Learning Objectives:

District Administrators Meeting

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Network with other school counseling district administrators and get ASCA updates. Sponsored by College Board.

Learning Objectives:

Level Meetups – K–12 and High School

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

This is your space to connect. Meet up with other K–12 or high school counselors to share experiences, swap strategies and learn from one another.

Learning Objectives:

Saturday, July 11

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Opening General Session: John Quiñones

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Opportunity Through Education

John Quiñones' accomplishments defy the destiny that too many predicted for him. As the child of migrant farm workers who entered school not speaking English, Quiñones later found himself put into a vocational track, despite his dream of going to college. In high school, he finally found a helping hand: an English teacher who recognized that the talented young man had what it took to become the first in his family to attend college. By believing in Quiñones and entering him into the federal Upward Bound program, one teacher put him on a path that literally changed the trajectory of his life.

In this moving and inspirational presentation, John Quiñones inspires all of us to believe in our potential, the transformative power of education and how one person can make a difference in the future of a child. A lifetime of "never taking no for an answer" took Quiñones from migrant farm work and poverty to more than 30 years at ABC News, the anchor desk at 20/20 and Primetime and eight national Emmy awards for his reporting over the years. Along the way, he broke through barriers, won the highest accolades such as recently becoming inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences "Golden Circle," and became a role model for many. As host and creator of What Would You Do?, the highly rated, hidden camera ethical dilemma news magazine now on its 17th season, Quiñones has literally become "the face of doing the right thing" to millions of fans. It's a role that he has enthusiastically embraced off camera, with a popular book that challenges audiences to examine the What Would You Do? moments we face every day. Known for truly connecting with audiences and leaving them uplifted and inspired, Quiñones delivers a powerful message of believing in one's self, never giving up and always, always doing the right thing.

Learning Objectives:

Saturday, July 11

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM CDT

Lunch in Exhibit Hall

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

12:00 PM - 4:30 PM CDT

Exhibit Hall Open

12:00 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Saturday, July 11

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CDT

Digital Empathy & SEL Tech Tools

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Learn to remix traditional strategies with tech tools that promote connection, emotional regulation and empathy. Each “track” highlights a tool aligned with the ASCA Student Standards and is grounded in evidence-based practice. Explore how platforms like ChatGPT, MagicSchool, SchoolAI, Canva and Adobe Express support student voice, trauma-informed care and SEL. Walk away equipped with developmentally appropriate strategies and tools for reflection, regulation and digital citizenship aligned with FERPA and the ASCA Ethical Standards. Be sure to bring your device to practice what you learn!

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify at least three digital tools that support social/emotional learning, student voice and emotional regulation in school settings 2) Apply evidence-based counseling strategies using technology to enhance SEL instruction and create emotionally supportive digital environments 3) Demonstrate how to ethically integrate AI and design platforms into individual, small-group or classroom-based SEL activities aligned with ASCA standards 4) Develop a personalized “empathy mixtape” of tech-infused strategies tailored to your role, student needs and school environment

Speakers:

- Dyann Wilson, *School Counselor, Brabham Middle School, Willis, TX*
- Amy Storer, *Innovative Learning Specialist , Montgomery ISD, Montgomery, TX*

Turn Time Into Impact

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Understand use-of-time areas (direct student services, indirect student services, program planning and school support), and learn about a practical method for categorizing common events. Using Google Calendar configured with an ASCA-aligned label schema and Time Insights, discover how to interpret weekly distribution, pinpoint the primary time driver and connect findings to student access. The resulting time narrative serves as an advocacy tool for both the annual administrative conference and ongoing data reporting. Apply the approach immediately as a fourth-quarter practice run and use it to prepare for next school year.

Learning Objectives:

1) Classify school counseling activities into the ASCA National Model® use-of-time areas (direct, indirect, program planning and school support) and identify non-school-counseling duties 2) Configure an ASCA-aligned label schema in Google Calendar and interpret Time Insights to summarize weekly distribution, name the primary time driver and link results to student access 3) Package findings into advocacy deliverables, including annual administrative conference talking points and a one-page data brief, and outline a simple reporting cadence for a fourth-quarter pilot and planning for next school year

Speakers:

- Keisha Branch, *Counseling Instructional Specialist* , *Prince George's County Public Schools*

Support ACE-Impacted Students

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Hear findings from a qualitative research study that examined how middle school counselors support students affected by adverse childhood experiences. These experiences, which include various forms of abuse, neglect and household dysfunction, can significantly disrupt a child's emotional well-being, academic progress and social/emotional development. As schools increasingly confront the realities of student trauma in society, the school counselor's role has never been more critical.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explore the origins and impact of adverse childhood experiences on youth development 2) Examine the role of middle school counselors in supporting students exposed to trauma, including the use of the ASCA National Model® and evidence-based strategies 3) Summarize trauma-informed care, highlighting school-based interventions, restorative practices, the role of SEL and the value of a whole-school approach in fostering safe, supportive learning environments

Speakers:

- Marcell Brown, *Doctoral Student and School Counselor*, *Roosevelt Senior High School*, *Washington, DC*

College Disability Accommodations

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Learn how you can prepare your students with disabilities for a successful transition to college. Explore key transition challenges, including the important fact that 504 plans do not automatically transfer to college and often are insufficient to qualify for accommodations. Hear ways to empower self-advocacy, navigate college accommodations and build student confidence. Walk away with practical tools and insights to support students in successfully navigating this new stage, ensuring they understand the changing landscape and are prepared to advocate for themselves effectively in a college setting.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain the differences in disability laws between K–12 and college settings 2) Recognize the shift in responsibility for accessing accommodations 3) Identify commonly available college accommodations 4) Explain why certain high school accommodations may not be available in college

Speakers:

- Elisabeth Morel, *Director, AccessAbility Services, Western Connecticut State University*
- Brooks Scavone, *Director, AccessAbility Services, Eastern Connecticut State University*
- Surbhi Patel, *Director, Student Accessibility Services, Central Connecticut State University*

Support Students with Eating Disorders

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Eating disorders are among the most serious mental health conditions affecting youth, yet they often go unnoticed until they have progressed to a crisis point. School counselors play a critical role in early identification, intervention and ongoing support, but many feel unprepared to address this sensitive and complex issue. Learn to recognize early warning signs in a school setting, approach students and families with empathy and cultural competence, and coordinate effective care through a multidisciplinary approach. Leave with practical tools, sample scripts and a resource guide to strengthen your school's prevention and response efforts.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Recognize early indicators of disordered eating in varied student populations
- 2) Establish school-based protocols for collaboration with families, healthcare providers and external agencies
- 3) Launch proactive prevention and awareness initiatives at school and district levels

Speakers:

- Lindsay Grohowski, *School Counselor, Alternative Education, John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center, Spotsylvania, VA*
- Kerri Friedman, *Director of Counseling, Chancellor Middle School, Fredericksburg, VA*

SEL-Focused Book Studies

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Discover how school counselors can collaborate with ESL teachers to host SEL-focused book studies for grades K–5 that support literacy growth and social/emotional development. Through engaging activities such as empathy maps, conflict resolution comic strips, character “I feel” statements, role play and friendship flower worksheets, students strengthen both reading comprehension and interpersonal skills. Understand how aligning literacy interventions with the ASCA Student Standards enhances academic achievement, fosters belonging and helps close literacy gaps through culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate practices.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify strategies for collaborating with ESL teachers to integrate SEL-focused book studies aligned with the ASCA Student Standards 2) Implement literacy-based SEL activities to support student growth in grades K–5 3) Apply culturally responsive practices to help close literacy gaps while fostering social/emotional development 4) Evaluate how school counseling interventions can improve academic achievement through data-informed, ASCA-aligned programming

Speakers:

- Tashaunna Hughes, *School Counselor, North Carolina State University*

Growing Student Leaders

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Explore ways to empower your students and help them enact meaningful change through a leadership development small group. Discuss current research on the benefits of integrating student leadership opportunities in schools, access practical strategies for delivering a successful leadership small group, and gain insights from other school counselors on collaborative approaches. Learn how fostering student leadership aligns with the ASCA National Model® and how to use the Small-Group and Data Report Template. Walk away prepared to implement an effective Tier 2 leadership intervention for elementary or middle school students, creating a more inclusive and student-driven school environment.

Learning Objectives:

1) Use the ASCA National Model® Small-Group and Data Report Template to implement a small group at the elementary or middle school level designed to increase student leadership skills 2) Determine the content to deliver in the group, who to deliver it to and how to deliver it 3) Explain how to measure participation data, ASCA Student Standards data and achievement data, and evaluate how these affect access, life-readiness and academic success 4) Identify ways to collaborate with and involve education partners in this small group

Speakers:

- Annie Goldberg, *School Counselor, Broadview Middle School, Burlington, NC*
- Lydia Larimore, *School Counselor, Neabsco Elementary School, Woodbridge, Va.*

School Counseling for Multilingual Learner Students

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Multilingual learners bring unique strengths and cultural richness to our schools, yet they often face significant academic and social/emotional challenges. Explore culturally responsive school counseling practices, effective collaboration with teachers and families and strategies for fostering resilience and belonging. Through case studies, role-play and practical planning tools, learn how to support multilingual learner students in ways that honor their cultural identities while promoting academic achievement and well-being. Leave with strategies, a ready-to-use school counseling framework and a toolkit of resources to strengthen schoolwide support.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify key challenges and strengths of multilingual learner students 2) Apply culturally responsive school counseling techniques 3) Implement schoolwide strategies promoting inclusion and achievement 4) Collaborate effectively with educators, families and community partners

Speakers:

- Teresa Chambers, *School Counseling Director, Rodney Thompson Middle School, Stafford, VA*

Help Students Want to Be in School

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

As students progress to secondary schools, they have more power to advocate for themselves to be in school. Taking common barriers into consideration, look at strategies, tools and incentives to encourage students to be in school. Walk away with a variety of ways to reach out to families and let them know that each day students are not in our buildings they're missing out.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Apply knowledge of cultural, social and environmental influences to enhance student success and opportunities
- 2) Collect ideas to create a school based plan of incentives and celebrations for attendance

Speakers:

- Stacey Rawlings, *School Counselor, McMillan Middle School, Omaha, NE*

Black Youth Suicide Prevention

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

The crisis of Black youth suicide has reached alarming rates, demanding effective, culturally responsive crisis intervention. Access a practical framework to promote student wellness while preventing and responding to mental health crises, including self-harm and suicide. Leave with actionable strategies to protect and empower Black youth.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify ASCA Student Standards, Professional Standards & Competencies and Ethical Standards related to health, wellness and suicide/self-harm prevention 2) Apply ASCA National Model® templates to design, implement and assess crisis prevention and mental health promotion efforts 3) Develop strategies for collaborating with administrators, families and community partners to strengthen systemic supports for student wellness 4) Demonstrate methods to document outcomes and advocate for school counselor roles in crisis intervention and prevention

Speakers:

- Domonique Lemieux, *Assistant Professor, Capella University*

Boost Engagement Through Arts & AI

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

What engages students most? Activities that connect to their interests, allow personal expression and give them choice in how they show learning. Explore how you can use both the arts and AI to personalize lessons, spark creativity and connect students to content in meaningful ways – all while

aligning with the ASCA National Model®. Experience examples of both traditional and digital approaches, leaving inspired with practical, feasible ideas to boost student engagement.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how integrating the arts and AI can personalize classroom lessons and increase student engagement 2) Compare traditional arts-based engagement strategies with digital and AI-supported approaches within academic, career and social/emotional domains 3) Recognize practical, feasible ways to adapt these ideas into counseling lessons or small groups 4) Reflect on how these approaches align with the ASCA National Model® and support student voice, choice and connection

Speakers:

- Hanna Kemble, *Dean of Elementary Counseling, Indian Hills Elementary School/USD 437, Topeka, KS*
- Beth Ruff, *School Counselor, Powder Springs Elementary School, Powder Springs, GA*

Get Organized Without Losing It

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

School counselors balance diverse student needs, administrative demands and program advocacy. Get research-backed strategies to strengthen school counseling programs through organization and data-informed practices. Learn to manage workloads using ASCA National Model® templates and tools to streamline tasks without being overwhelmed. Discover ways to create and maintain a comprehensive, data-informed school counseling program that effectively supports student success. Learn to leverage data to identify needs, monitor progress, align initiatives with school goals and advocate confidently for your programs.

Learning Objectives: 1) Use the ASCA Student Standards Delivery Plan Template and Annual Administrator Conference Template and additional organizational tools to effectively organize and streamline school counseling tasks 2) Strategize ways to advocate confidently for school counseling programs through evidence-based practices and collaborative partnerships 3) Apply data-informed strategies to identify student needs, monitor progress and align school counseling initiatives with school goals 4) Implement practical organizational and workload management techniques to reduce overwhelm and enhance program impact

Speakers:

- Diego Castro, *School Counselor, Hoover Middle School, Merced, CA*
- Mercedes Morales-Villa, *Villa, Tenaya Middle School, Merced, CA*
- Brandon Castro, *School Counselor, Rivera Elementary School, Merced, CA*
- Wendy Sandoval, *School Counselor, Cruickshank Middle School, Merced, CA*

Data-Informed Mindfulness

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Mindfulness is a powerful tool for supporting social/emotional development, yet many school counselors struggle to connect the interventions to data. Explore how to align mindfulness with ASCA Student Standards, ensuring practices support self-management skills, learning strategies

and social skills. Learn to collect meaningful data, such as participation, ASCA Student Standards and achievement data, to evaluate the impact. Understand how to use the lesson plan Template and Small-Group Plan and Data Report Template to include mindfulness in instruction. Learn to communicate the results to educational partners, enhancing program credibility. Walk away with practical tools, templates and ready-to-use strategies to implement and measure mindfulness interventions with purpose and clarity.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify ASCA Student Standards aligned with mindfulness-based interventions 2) Explain how to collect meaningful data, including participation, ASCA Student Standards and achievement data, and analyze it to evaluate the impact of mindfulness practices on student achievement 3) Learn how to use the ASCA Lesson Plan and Data Report Template and Small-Group Plan and Data Report Template to include research-based mindfulness practices in classroom instruction and small groups 4) Effectively communicate the impact of mindfulness interventions to administrators and educational partners using data-informed evidence to enhance program visibility and credibility

Speakers:

- Sarah Kirk, *ASCA-Certified Trainer, and Owner, Yoga 4 Classrooms*

Build Equitable Systems to Drive Student Success

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Explore how culturally centered social/emotional learning and MTSS implementation can transform outcomes for Black and brown youth. Learn to embed racial identity, cultural affirmation and healing-centered practices into all tiers of academic and social/emotional support. Walk away with actionable strategies to redesign systems of support that are inclusive, responsive and empowering for historically marginalized students.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe the principles of culturally centered SEL and how they align with equitable MTSS frameworks to support Black and brown students 2) Identify systemic barriers and disproportionalities within academic, behavioral and SEL data affecting historically marginalized youth 3) Apply tiered strategies that affirm identity, promote belonging and strengthen student outcomes across multiple domains 4) Develop an actionable plan to integrate culturally responsive SEL and MTSS practices into your school or district

Speakers:

- Melanie McColl-Batie, *Director of School Counseling, Roosevelt High School, Washington, DC*
- na'Khia Washington, *Director of School Counseling, Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School, Philadelphia, PA*

Girl Drama in Elementary Schools

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Did you know that girl drama actually begins in elementary school? Understand bullying as it pertains to relational and social aggression, including how the female brain correlates with the need to be social and how this need influences ways girls assert their power in groups. Walk away equipped with tools to support students and families in a collaborative effort to reduce drama.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how the human brain connects with the innate need for girls to bond and form social groups 2) Describe interventions for the bullies and the victims of relational aggression 3) Plan for ASCA aligned small-groups that empower girls

Speakers:

- Paige Abasolo, *School Counselor, Kersey Creek Elementary School, Mechanicsville, VA*

School Counselors and Parents Bill of Rights

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

In recent years, 23 states have passed a version of a Parents Bill of Rights law, and 32 states have in legislation or court proceedings the strict scrutiny doctrine, which means the government cannot enforce a law infringing on a fundamental right such as parenting. These laws, along with the U.S. Supreme Court, have underscored what school counselors have long held as a truth – that parents/guardians have a right to be the guiding voice in children's lives in value-laden issues. However, these laws make it difficult to negotiate when they demand a one-size-fits-all when competing interests take away a student's opportunity for a safe place. Address these competing interests through court rulings and the ASCA Ethical Standards. Focus on school counselors as defendants. Understand guiding principles to support best ethical practice, supporting both parent/guardian rights and student well-being in complex situations.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain the key components of Parents Bill of Rights (PBR) laws and the strict scrutiny doctrine, and their relevance to school counseling practice. 2) Analyze recent court cases and rulings—particularly those involving school counselors—to understand emerging legal expectations and risks. 3) Evaluate how PBR and strict scrutiny requirements intersect with the ASCA Ethical Standards, especially when navigating competing interests between parent rights and student safety. 4) Apply principles of legal literacy and ethical decision-making to develop strategies for supporting both parents' rights and students' well-being in complex situations.

Speakers:

- Carolyn Stone, *Professor Emerita, University of North Florida*

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM CDT

LGBTQ+ School Counselors Affinity Group Meeting

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

If you identify as LGBTQ+, join the LGBTQ+ School Counselors Affinity Group at an in-person meeting. Network with like-minded peers, connect with colleagues with shared challenges and discuss solutions and resources. The LGBTQ+ School Counselors Affinity Group aims to empower and advocate for LGBTQ+ school counselors through collaboration and creating a safe space for giving voice as they navigate their intersecting roles and identities.

Learning Objectives:

Saturday, July 11

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM CDT

Exclusive Exhibit Hall Time

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Learning Objectives:

Saturday, July 11

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM CDT

Culturally Affirming Programs in Practice

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

The Manage component of the ASCA National Model® provides tools and resources for school counseling program design and implementation. Using a culturally affirming lens through this process helps ensure school counselors address gaps and develop a plan of access for each and every student. Explore data-informed planning, inclusive programming, Tier 1 and Tier 2 services. Explore examples of each using ASCA National Model® templates.

Learning Objectives:

1) Use data and the ASCA School Counseling Data Priorities Template to identify student needs
2) Implement culturally affirming programming using the ASCA Student Standards Delivery Plan and Data Report Template
3) Analyze your current services and identify opportunities to integrate best practices

Speakers:

- Eva Gibson, *Associate Professor, Austin Peay State University*
- LeAnn Wills, *Assistant Professor, Austin Peay State University*

Grow with Grief

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Grief doesn't wait for convenience, and sometimes school counselors are supporting students through loss while navigating their own loss as well. Join a candid, compassionate conversation on being grief-informed in your practice while honoring your personal experience. Explore strategies for student grief support, crisis response and self-sustaining boundaries.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify signs and needs of grieving students across developmental levels, and respond with age-appropriate, grief-informed school counseling strategies 2) Apply trauma-informed practices during and after a crisis event affecting the school community 3) Reflect on the intersection of personal grief and professional responsibilities, and implement strategies for healthy boundaries and self-sustainability 4) Collaborate with staff, families and community partners to create a supportive environment for grieving students

Speakers:

- Bethany White, *School Counselor, Startown Elementary School, Newton, NC*

Support Undocumented Students

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

For undocumented and mixed-status students, traditional definitions of success often overlook the barriers they face. Hear strategies to increase success for each and every student; foster belonging; and ensure access to academic, career and postsecondary opportunities. Explore culturally responsive approaches, financial aid navigation and mental health supports tailored to marginalized communities. Through case studies and resources, learn to magnify student voices, advocate for systemic change and design school counseling programs that break down barriers and open doors. Leave with actionable tools to expand opportunity and redefine success for each and every student.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify systemic barriers affecting undocumented and underserved students 2) Apply strategies to boost access for each and every student to college, career and financial aid 3) Support mental health and well-being through culturally responsive practices 4) Advocate for policies and programs that improve belonging for each and every student

Speakers:

- Maritza Cha, *School Counselor, Alhambra Unified School District, Alhambra, CA*

School Counselor Advocacy in Section 504 Processes

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Overseeing Section 504 plans and processes has become an increasing demand on school counselors. Using the ASCA position statement The School Counselor and Section 504 Plan and Process, explore how school counselors can move from case manager to team member and have an appropriate role within the 504 team. Through advocacy for the school counselor's role and student achievement, focus on strategies and mindsets that allow a team of individuals to create 504 plans and processes that are student-centered, success-focused and educator-supported.

Learning Objectives:

1) Advocate for an appropriate school counselor role in section 504 plans and processes 2) Use the ASCA position statement, The School Counselor and Section 504 Plan and Process 3) Describe collaboration opportunities for appropriate 504 plans and processes within a 504 team

Speakers:

- Geoff Heckman, *School Counselor, Platte County High School, Platte City, MO*

Restorative Change in Schools

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Explore how to implement restorative practices at Tier 1 and Tier 2 to support systemic change in behavior management. Focus on embedding restorative principles into existing frameworks, such as schoolwide behavior matrices, to promote a more equitable approach to discipline. Learn to use disaggregated data to identify patterns, target interventions and monitor progress, ensuring data-informed practices supporting success for each and every student. Understand the school counselor's role in leading change and applying knowledge of cultural, social and environmental factors to improve student outcomes.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how to integrate restorative practices into Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions to promote proactive behavior management and drive systemic change in school discipline approaches 2) Analyze discipline and behavior data to identify inequities and inform the implementation of restorative approaches 3) Evaluate the school counselor's role in leading restorative practice implementation to improve school climate, student well-being and success for each and every student

Speakers:

- Cassie D'Addeo, *School Counselor, Rogers Garden Bullock Elementary School, Bradenton, FL*
- Michelle Bockock, *School Counselor, Skye Ranch School, Sarasota, FL*

Build Student College and Career Success

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Hear how one district's school counselors and CTE department identified a significant gap in CTE pathway completion among high school students and recognized the need to engage middle school students with the diverse programs available. Discover how an eighth-grade CTE showcase successfully introduced every eighth grader to a wealth of postsecondary opportunities,

significantly boosting awareness and CTE pathway completion. Learn how the showcase equips students to achieve their educational aspirations, ultimately preparing them to graduate from high school ready for college and a successful career.

Learning Objectives:

1) Implement strategies to enhance college and career readiness among high school students by fostering engagement and providing essential information at the middle school level 2) Create initiatives connecting students with resources, leadership opportunities and exposure to various career options at an early stage in their education 3) Equip middle school students with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet both CTE and college entrance requirements, facilitating their transition to high school 4) Brainstorm ways to support and promote career technical student organizations to help students stay engaged and interested in vocational career pathways

Speakers:

- Nicolette Gonzaba, *School Counselor Program Specialist, Stockton Unified School District, Stockton, CA*
- Tamara Gray, *School Counselor Program Specialist, Stockton Unified School District, Stockton, CA*
- Jose Martinez Esparza, *School Counselor, Weber Institute, Stockton, CA*

Regulate to Elevate

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Explore regulation strategies and the role of school counselors as champions of school culture and climate. Learn practical tools from breathing exercises and mindfulness to schoolwide initiatives that support students and staff. Understand how to embed regulation into daily routines, cultivate a culture of calm and connection, and leave with actionable strategies to create a more resilient, thriving school community.

Learning Objectives:

1) Define the role of the school counselor as a champion of school culture and climate through regulation-focused leadership 2) Identify essential regulation strategies for both staff and students, from foundational to schoolwide practices 3) Plan practical routines and initiatives that embed regulation into daily school life 4) Develop an action plan to strengthen schoolwide regulation practices and foster a positive climate

Speakers:

- Abby Bays, *School Counselor, Monaview Elementary School, Greenville, SC*
- Dr. Mary Tchouros, *School Counselor, Bell's Crossing Elementary School, Greenville, SC*

Experiential Classroom Lessons that Stick

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Are your students squirmy, distracted or just plain hard to reach during classroom, large-group and small-group lessons? It might be time to rethink your format. Learn about the concepts of centers, Legos and games to provide hands-on, student-led stations that spark curiosity, movement and ownership in learning. This approach transforms lessons from passive to participatory. Explore how to use centers, Legos and games to teach a variety of topics such as friendship, feelings, careers and more. Walk away with strategies for organizing, managing transitions and making lessons more fun and meaningful.

Learning Objectives:

1) Discuss how using centers, Legos and games can increase engagement and student ownership during classroom, large-group and small-group lessons 2) Design and implement hands-on, student-led stations addressing topics such as friendship, feelings and careers 3) Apply strategies for organizing materials, managing transitions and maintaining smooth classroom flow when using experiential tools

Speakers:

- Tosha Todd, *School Counselor, Lucy Franklin Elementary School, Blue Springs, MO*

Tiered SEL and Inclusive School Counseling

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Looking for practical ways to engage your students while building social-emotional skills? Learn how to design and deliver creative Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions that affirm cultural identity and foster belonging. Blend conflict resolution, executive functioning, and empathy-building strategies with inclusive lesson planning. Walk away with ready-to-use tools to strengthen connection, communication, and community in every learning environment.

Learning Objectives:

1) Design culturally responsive Tier 1 classroom lessons that integrate executive functioning, conflict resolution and empathy-building to support social/emotional development 2) Apply the ASCA National Model® Lesson Plan Template and Small-Group Plan and Data Report Template to implement and assess Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions aligned with ASCA Student Standards 3) Deliver small-group Tier 2 interventions that reinforce identity, belonging and effective communication strategies 4) Evaluate student growth using pre-/post-assessment methods aligned with ASCA Student Standards and program outcomes

Speakers:

- Dr. Bernell Elzey, Jr. , *Teaching Faculty, Antioch University*
- Brittany Glover, *Assistant Professor, San Diego State University*
- Korey Cleveland, *Academic Intervention Counselor, Catholic High School, Baton Rouge, LA*

Advocacy 101: More than Just a Talk

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Now, more than ever, the need to inform and educate others about the school counselor's role is critical. It's even more critical to be able to share how students benefit from their school counselor's work. Engage in a lively discussion about advocacy and the many possibilities for success when advocacy is done the right way.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe the importance of being able to dialogue with school, district and state partners in education 2) Discuss best practices in advocacy throughout the school year 3) Identify ASCA resources to help with your advocacy efforts and how/when to use them

Speakers:

- Deirdra Williams, *Director of Programs & Advocacy, ASCA*

Use the ASCA Student Standards

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

The ASCA Student Standards: Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success specify the attitudes, knowledge and skills students need to be effective learners. Focus on the best way to use the 36 ASCA Student Standards to drive content and assessment of what you deliver to students. Fine-tune your ability to align the standards, learning objectives and pre-/post-assessment items as defined by the ASCA National Model®.

Learning Objectives:

1. Define connections to annual student outcome goals, closing-the-gap and lesson plan templates
2. Write learning objectives and corresponding pre-/post-items for multiple standards

Speakers:

- Dr. Brian Mathieson, *ASCA-certified trainer®*, *Vancouver Public Schools*
- Sonya Sallak, *School Counselor Coordinator, Student Services Department, Jeffco Public Schools, Golden, Col.*

ASCA National Model® Templates

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

The fifth edition of the ASCA National Model® modified several templates, created new templates and removed a few previously used. As school counselors move toward full implementation of the

fifth edition, it is essential to know which templates are current and best practices for using each template. Explore the current templates and understand exactly how using them can help you organize your program.

Learning Objectives:

1) Recognize the templates currently in use 2) Identify the purpose of each template 3) Define the information required in each template 4) Discuss best practice associated with each template

Speakers:

- Onna Mechanic-Holland, *Education Specialist, School Counseling, RI Dept. of Education, ASCA Certified Trainer*
- Lauren Crispino, *ASCA Certified Trainer & Education Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax, Va.*
- Richard Tench, *School Counselor, St. Albans High School, Charleston, WV*

Boundary Crossing, Dual relationships & Boundary Violations

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

A boundary crossing is a departure from the verbal and physical distances normally maintained between student and school counselor. Extending boundaries while also respecting the need to evaluate a boundary crossing before proceeding, is a hallmark of the counseling profession. School counselors sometimes show loyalty by crossing boundaries and/or softening the professional distance. Explore the school counselor's role in balancing the complex work of trying to provide loyalty and support to students while being vigilant to the responsibility to ensure students' emotional safety. It is a strongly recognized and respected tenet in the profession that school counselors evaluate the risks and benefits before extending a relationship beyond a counselors' role, time and place. A deviation from standard practice should cause school counselors to reflect on their rationale for the action before proceeding.

Learning Objectives:

1) Differentiate between boundary crossings, dual relationships, and boundary violations within school counseling practice. 2) Evaluate the risks and benefits of extending professional boundaries and apply reflective decision-making before deviating from standard practice. 3) Analyze how school counselors can balance providing loyalty and support to students while maintaining professional distance and ensuring emotional safety.

Speakers:

- Carolyn Stone, *Professor Emerita, University of North Florida*

Advocate Using Position Statements

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Get tips and recommendations for using ASCA position statements to advocate for appropriate school counseling roles and to inform your school counseling practice. Walk away with knowledge about the recently developed or revised position statements addressing the school counselor and threat assessment, students experiencing issues surrounding undocumented status, suicide risk assessment and more.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Discuss how position statements inform the role of the school counselor
- 2) Strategize how to use the position statements to advocate for appropriate school counselor roles
- 3) Summarize the newly developed and revised ASCA position statements to view and explain current recommendations for practice

Speakers:

- Jacinta Nafziger, *District Department Chair of School Counseling, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor, MI*

Drive District Success via School Counseling Programs

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Learn how school counseling programs can become a powerful driver of district success. Focus on aligning school counseling programs with district priorities, elevating your leadership capacity and creating measurable impact on student achievement and school improvement.

Learning Objectives: 1) Examine approaches for strengthening leadership capacity within school counseling teams to enhance districtwide impact 2) Identify strategies for aligning school counseling programs with district goals to drive student achievement and school improvement 3) Reflect on personal leadership style and identify ways to strengthen impact within the school counseling role 4) List actionable steps for measuring and demonstrating the effectiveness of school counseling programs

Speakers:

- Carlos Samaniego, *K-12 School Counselor Specialist, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago IL*
- Chantal Muzzall, *K-12 School Counselor Specialist, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL*
- LaNedra Mitchell, *School Counselor, Schmid Elementary School, Chicago, IL*
- Andrea Allen-Moore, *School Counselor/CPS School Counseling District Lead, Gage Park High School Chicago, IL*

Create Achievement Gap Goals

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Learn to create goal statements based on student outcome data. Goal statements clarify the group of students to be included, the outcomes targeted for change and the process for final analysis. Following the ASCA Achievement Gap Goal Template ensures the process is completed with

fidelity.

Learning Objectives:

1) Move from school data to clearly identified subset of students needing support 2) Establish the criteria for inclusion in the description of the targeted group 3) Identify outcomes to be changed that are easy to analyze and report

Speakers:

- Kristin Barnson, *ASCA Certified Trainer*
- Aimee Hospodarsky, *School Counselor Consultant, Grant Wood Area Education Agency, Cedar Rapids, IA*

Saturday, July 11

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM CDT

U.S. Maritime Industry Mixer

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM , Saturday, July 11

Overview:

Join maritime representatives for an evening reception. Mix, mingle and learn more about careers for students in the U.S. maritime industry. Sponsored by Military Sealift Command and the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM CDT

Morning Yoga

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Start your day off with a yoga session.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM CDT

Registration Open

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM , Sunday, July 12

Sunday, July 12

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM CDT

New School Counselor, Who Dis?

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

First-year school counselors juggle heavy caseloads, new systems and the challenge of establishing their professional identity. Learn practical strategies for thriving in year one. Discover time-management hacks, ways to build authentic relationships with staff and strategies for partnering effectively with administrators. Explore how to use Google Forms to collect data, implement a simple calling-home script to strengthen family partnerships, and design a school counseling newsletter to communicate program impact and engage education partners. Leave with ready-to-use templates, scripts and tools that improve efficiency, advocacy and student outcomes while aligning with the ASCA National Model®.

Learning Objectives: 1) Apply at least three time-management strategies aligned with the ASCA National Model® Manage component to balance caseloads and deliver services effectively 2) Identify intentional ways to build relationships with staff and develop collaborative partnerships with administrators to support student success and enhance school climate 3) Create and use a Google Form for data collection to track interventions and inform program decisions 4) Implement a professional calling-home script and a school counselor newsletter to strengthen family engagement and communicate program outcomes to education partners

Speakers:

- Sharon Winston, *School Counselor, Albert Einstein High School, Kensington, MD*

Small Groups from Scratch

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

There are a lot of great pre-made small counseling group curricula available for purchase, but if you cannot find exactly what you are looking for, you will need to create your own. Learn to plan, facilitate, evaluate and publicize your original small group.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the steps needed to plan for, facilitate, evaluate and publicize an effective small-group 2) Apply effective strategies to create small group-curriculum and structure each small-group session

Speakers:

- Lauren White, *School Counselor, Henrico County Public Schools, Henrico, VA*
- Jenny Hubler, *School Counseling Director, Henrico County Public Schools, Henrico, VA*

Schoolwide SEL Clubs

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Join a principal and school counselor team as they share how afterschool SEL clubs evolved into Schoolwide Club Days, ensuring SEL access for each and every student. Integrated into a Tier 1 SEL framework, these clubs strengthen relationships, enhance skills and reduce higher-tier interventions. Begin with an activity designed to foster staff empathy and buy-in for schoolwide SEL initiatives, then explore strategies for administrators and school counselors to initiate inclusive clubs, host SEL events and create a positive school climate. Leave with strategies, planning templates and tools to launch or enhance schoolwide SEL initiatives.

Learning Objectives:

1) Collaborate with education partners to develop and sustain schoolwide SEL clubs promoting belonging and support success for each and every student 2) Design and implement inclusive, trauma-informed SEL club models that engage diverse learners and strengthen Tier 1 behavior and SEL supports 3) Apply data-informed planning and evaluation tools to organize club days and assess their impact on school climate, student behavior and social/emotional growth 4) Strategize ways to engage families, educators and administrators collaboratively to foster a supportive school community aligned with ASCA Ethical Standards and ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies

Speakers:

- Jessica Longland, *School Counselor, Kelly Elementary School, Burlington, KY*
- Kathy Gutzwiller, *Principal, Kelly Elementary School, Burlington, KY*

From First Gen to Future Ready

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Empower first-generation students to reach their full potential through targeted support, practical strategies and strong community partnerships. Explore how MTSS frameworks, small-group interventions and community partnerships can build academic and social/emotional skills, boost confidence and open doors to college and career success. Walk away with actionable tools and collaborative approaches to create a network that helps first-generation students thrive.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the unique academic, postsecondary and social/emotional challenges faced by first-generation students 2) Implement MTSS strategies and develop effective small-group sessions to support academic and social/emotional growth 3) List ways to collaborate with community-based organizations and use programs/resources to expand opportunities, increase college acceptance and graduation rates 4) Develop practical, sustainable strategies to support first-generation students' college and career success

Speakers:

- Dana Cudjoe, *School Counselor, Rich Township High School, Richton Park, IL*
- Natasha Fields, *School Counseling Director, Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC*

Take What You Need

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Feeling burned out or running on empty? Walk away reenergized and ready to identify what fuels your work and what's holding you back. Using a red light/green light framework inspired by Matthew McConaughey; reflect on your strengths, uncover your needs; and explore practical, ready-to-use strategies to meet your needs. Leave with fresh energy, renewed purpose and the tools you need to feel confident, effective and ready to thrive in your role every day.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify personal "green lights" and "red lights" affecting school counselor well-being and effectiveness 2) Reflect on individual strengths and align them with ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies 3) Explore ready-to-use strategies to address professional needs and prevent burnout 4) Apply the red light/green light framework to sustain confidence, purpose and effectiveness in daily practice

Speakers:

- Matthew Berry, *Coordinator of School Counseling, Rockwood School District, Eureka, MO*

Create a Trauma-Responsive School Climate

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Have you ever heard staff say "Well I know they have been through some trauma, but what am I supposed to do with them in the classroom when they are acting out?" For years schools and professional development have focused on being trauma-informed. School staff were presented with data about how trauma impacts the brain and learning. But at what point do we move from being aware of something to acting and making real change? School counselors are tasked with "creating systemic change through the implementation of a school counseling program". Explore ways to create that systemic change in our schools and transition from simply being trauma-informed to becoming trauma-responsive.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and childhood trauma in today's students 2) Discuss current trauma-informed policies and procedures in place in schools 3) Identify two trauma-responsive practices to implement this school year 4) Brainstorm ways to create systemic change in your school by becoming more trauma-responsive

Speakers:

- Brooke Hagenau, *School Counselor, Pinewood Elementary School, Omaha, NE*
- Martha-Jane Matthews, *School Counselor, Central Park Elementary, Omaha, NE*

Substance Use 101

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

With one-in-seven teens abusing substances monthly and 31% of 12th graders reporting illicit drug use, school counselors need current tools and strategies. Learn about commonly abused substances among adolescents and evidence-based substance abuse screenings. Explore staff/family education, treatment referrals and crisis protocols, and walk away with practical resources for immediate implementation in prevention, intervention and recovery support systems.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify current trends and statistics in adolescent substance use 2) Recognize common substances abused by school-age populations 3) Implement evidence-based screening tools, prevention and intervention strategies in school settings 4) Plan effective staff and family education programs 5) Create referral pathways for treatment and support services

Speakers:

- Daya Patton, *Assistant Professor , SUNY Oneonta*

Cultural Assets to Support Neurodivergent Black Youth

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Schools often view what is “wrong” with students instead of what is “strong” with students. This is exacerbated for minoritized groups, such as Black and neurodivergent students. Push back on this harmful narrative using a strength-based lens for serving neurodivergent Black youth, learning how to use cultural assets, anti-racism, collaboration and partnership, and neuro-affirming school counseling through an ASCA National Model®/MTSS framework. Gain concrete strategies to integrate in your K–12 school counseling program: advocacy and systemic change, culturally affirming collaboration, and neuro-affirming classroom lessons and counseling.

Learning Objectives: 1) Describe key aspects of strength-based school counseling for supporting Black neurodivergent youth, utilizing cultural assets, anti-racism, collaboration and partnership and neuro-affirming school counseling through an ASCA National Model®/MTSS framework 2) Use the ASCA National Model® lesson plan and small-group plan to design and deliver classroom lessons grounded in strength-based neuro-affirming practices 3) Design strength-based, actionable Tier 1 and Tier 2 strategies for serving Black neurodivergent youth through an ASCA National Model®/MTSS framework

Speakers:

- Krystal Clemons, *Founder, CEO, Our Village Consulting*
- Paul Harris, *Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University*
- Emily Goodman-Scott, PhD, *Professor, Old Dominion University*

Making MTSS Work in Secondary Schools

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The fifth edition of the ASCA National Model® outlines how school counseling programs are aligned with a multitiered system of supports (MTSS) to eliminate systemic barriers and engage in culturally responsive strategies. But what does this look like in middle and high schools? Hear concrete strategies for secondary school counselors. Learn about tools for tiered school counseling programs integrated with the ASCA National Model®. Discuss how to overcome common challenges, understand your role advocating for systemic change and more. Leave this session with tips, tools and energy to freshen up your secondary school counseling program.

Learning Objectives:

1) Understand key tenants of ASCA National Model® and MTSS alignment for secondary school counselors 2) Examine exemplar ready-to-use data-gathering, progress monitoring and training tools from schools and districts across the country to implement MTSS at the secondary level 3) Demonstrate application by discussing ways to overcome common challenges and ultimately advocate for systemic change for each and every student 4) Create a plan to update and improve your comprehensive school counseling program in the year ahead, specific for the secondary level

Speakers:

- Jennifer Betters-Bubon, *Professor, University of Wisconsin Whitewater*
- Peg Donohue, *Associate Professor, Central Connecticut State University*
- Rachel Hagelin, *School Counselor, Belton High School, Belton, MO*

Middle School Counselor Ethical Dilemmas

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The middle school setting poses its own challenges as students develop rapidly across all domains of self. On a daily basis, school counselors navigate issues such as suicide, child abuse and neglect, gender issues and confidentiality, just to name a few. Increase your understanding of ethical issues to consider when working in a middle school, and discuss case studies through the lens of the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss ethical issues to consider when working in middle schools 2) Discuss case studies through the lens of the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors

Speakers:

- Sara Carpenter, *School Counselor, Ladue Schools, St. Louis, MO*

Become Praxis® Ready

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Are you a school counselor candidate preparing to take the Praxis® School Counselor (5422) exam? Are you interested in becoming an ASCA-Certified School Counselor® but haven't fulfilled the Praxis® requirement? Learn to organize your study approach, connect exam content to real-world school counseling practice and master strategies for answering different question types. Discuss best practices for preparation, common pitfalls to avoid and practical tips for building test-taking confidence. Leave with planning resources, response strategies and self-assessment techniques to maximize your performance and readiness for professional practice.

Learning Objectives: 1) Align your review of school counseling concepts and competencies with the structure and content categories of the Praxis® School Counselor (5422) exam 2) Use timed drills, interactive practice tests and feedback cycles to strengthen your test-taking skills and build stamina for the exam 3) Describe strategies for selected-response and constructed-response questions, including clarifying prompts, planning answers and reviewing responses to avoid common missteps 4) Access study-planning templates, official resources and self-assessment tools to track your progress and address areas for improvement

Speakers:

- Malik McKinley, *Director of Educational Partnerships, Education Testing Service*

Effective Lesson Planning

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Using specific ASCA Student Standards to drive classroom lesson focus, content and assessment ensures your lessons offer evidence-based content, grounded in research and focused on skills and knowledge necessary to being an effective learner. Following the required components of the ASCA Lesson Plan Template ensures you're delivering instruction effectively and giving students the best opportunity to acquire the standards. Learn about instructional strategies, and leave with some ready-to-deliver lessons.

Learning Objectives:

1) Teach to the ASCA Student Standards 2) Plan effective classroom lesson instruction 3) Explore effective teaching strategies

Speakers:

- Missy Smith
- Stacey Miller

RAMP Begins with the ASCA National Model®

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Before submitting the RAMP® application, it's critical to learn about, apply and understand the ASCA National Model® and its impact. Hear from four RAMP® schools about their journey from implementing the ASCA National Model® all the way to applying for RAMP® and what they learned along the way.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain the importance of a solid understanding and implementation of the ASCA National Model® before applying for RAMP® 2) Discuss best practices when working toward RAMP®

The Keys to Mindfulness

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Mindfulness helps reduce anxiety and stress while improving mental health. It promotes healthy life

choices, thoughtfulness and gratitude, while improving mood, sleep and general health. The Keys to Mindfulness are easy-to-use techniques that teach students how to be more present and prepared. Walk away with engaging mindfulness strategies, which you can use with students, staff and yourself in meaningful ways. Focus on defining mindfulness, exploring why mindfulness is useful in your program and implementing mindfulness across your school counseling program. Explore and learn to use a variety of techniques.

Learning Objectives: 1) Brainstorm ways to implement mindfulness into your program at Tier 1 and Tier 2 2) Describe and practice mindfulness strategies to use with your students and staff

Speakers:

- Mark Hubbard, *School Counselor, Hanson School, Lebanon, ME*

Hands-On Motivational Interviewing

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Many students' challenges stem not from a lack of ability but from a lack of motivation/direction. Practice motivational interviewing techniques, including open-ended questions, affirmations, reflecting listening, summarization, change talk and more to help students reengage and take ownership. Walk away with tools for immediate use in counseling sessions related to academic, career and social/emotional development.

Learning Objectives:

1) Use core and advanced motivational interviewing strategies in a school counseling context 2) Analyze the effects of motivational interviewing on student academic performance using a real case study 3) Develop strategies for integrating advanced motivational interviewing skills into your daily work to support student success in all three domains. 4) Create a plan to incorporate motivational interviewing language into individual and small-group counseling.

Speakers:

- Brian Linhart, *School Counselor, Buffalo Grove High School, Buffalo Grove, IL and Adjunct Professor, National Louis University*
- Reagan North, *Counselor Educator, Liberty University (VA)/Grand Canyon University (AZ)*

Classroom Management Success

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

School counseling preparation programs are full of important topics; however, one subject that is sorely lacking for school counselors is classroom management practices. Focus on planning to succeed in classroom and large group settings with lesson plan templates, evidence-based structures, and a few tips and tricks from veteran teachers that will allow you to easily deliver and assess classroom and large-group lessons based on the ASCA Student Standards.

Learning Objectives:

1) Plan and deliver a comprehensive lesson using the ASCA Lesson Plan Template 2) Describe necessary structures for classroom management success 3) Implement instructional management practices to easily engage and assess each and every student

Speakers:

- Meredith Draughn, *Student Support Counseling Lead, Alamance-Burlington School System, Burlington, NC*

Private and Independent School Counselors Affinity Group meeting

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Join the inaugural meeting of the Private and Independent School Counselors Affinity Group. This is a welcoming space designed for school counselors working in private and independent school settings to come together, build connections and strengthen community. Share insights, practical strategies and solutions that support student success and enhance professional practice. Whether you are looking to connect with colleagues, learn from others' experiences or contribute your own perspective, you're invited to join this emerging community. Your voice and participation will help shape the future of this Affinity Group.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

9:30 AM - 4:30 PM CDT

Exhibit Hall Open

9:30 AM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Sunday, July 12

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CDT

Exclusive Exhibit Hall Time

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM , Sunday, July 12

Sunday, July 12

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM CDT

BIPOC School Counselors Affinity Group Meeting

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Join the BIPOC School Counselors Affinity Group at an in-person meeting. Network with like-minded peers, connect with colleagues with shared challenges and discuss solutions and resources. The BIPOC School Counselors Affinity Group is dedicated to providing a safe space for school counselors of color to be authentic and genuine and to create opportunities to connect and network, share ideas and experiences, and discuss relevant issues.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

ASCA National Model® Fifth Edition 101

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Implementing the ASCA National Model® is the best way to advocate for the profession and for your school counseling program. The fifth edition of the ASCA National Model® provides a continued focus on access and success for each and every student and introduces a greater focus on achievement, with attendance and discipline data recognized as contributing factors to academic performance. This introductory session is perfect for those ready to get started with the ASCA National Model® and is also a good refresher for those wanting to learn more about the fifth edition.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify the changes to the fifth edition of the ASCA National Model® 2) Explain how implementing the ASCA National Model® leads to stronger advocacy for students and the school counseling program 3) Implement at least one component of the fifth edition in your building this fall

Speakers:

- Sarah Flier, *ASCA Certified Trainer & School Counselor, Willow River Elementary School, Hudson, Wis.*
- Megen Stair, *ASCA Certified Trainer & School Counselor , Park Vista Community High School, Lake Worth, Fla.*

Create a School Climate Students Thrive In

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Explore how school climate and culture are shaped not just by programs, but by people. Blending lived school-based experience with current research, hear how you can lead with connection, influence climate and build community. Whether you're looking to reignite your passion, strengthen your school culture or align your work with a deeper purpose, focus on reflection, action and meaningful change, helping you create spaces where students can thrive.

Learning Objectives:

1) Reflect on the role of school counselors as leaders of school culture and climate 2) Discuss strategies that blend practical experience and research to support thriving school communities 3) Brainstorm ways to lead with purpose, connection and success for each and every student

Speakers:

- Timothy Adams, *School Counselor, Pierre Moran Middle School, Elkhart, IN*
- Ebony Gilbert, *School Counselor, McCutcheon High School, Lafayette, IN*
- Dr. Sherri Barrow, *Assistant Teaching Professor, Ball State University*

Support Grieving Students

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Understand the distinction between trauma and grief and hear practical ways to support grieving students. Learn what not to say, considerations related to grief across different cultures, identifying and addressing guilt, appropriate academic accommodations, managing grief triggers, supporting graduating high school students who are grieving, and understanding and minimizing compassion fatigue for school professionals.

Learning Objectives:

1) Feel more comfortable explaining death to young children and initiating a conversation with grieving children of all ages 2) Discuss the role of guilt and how it affects adjustment to a loss 3) Describe grief triggers and advise on how to minimize their impact in a school setting, as well as other academic accommodations to support grieving students 4) Anticipate and minimize compassion fatigue 5) Access free professional development resources on bereavement via grievingstudents.org

Speakers:

- David Schonfeld, *Director, National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at CHLA*

Build Student Confidence & Resilience

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Positive affirmations are powerful tools to strengthen self-belief, manage stress and stay motivated. Using the ASCA Lesson Plan Template, create a lesson where students engage in activities to craft affirmations, reflect on strengths and apply them to real-world challenges. Learn strategies to

integrate affirmations into advisory, SEL lessons and small-group counseling to promote resilience and growth mindset. Leave with a ready-to-use activity that builds confidence, reinforces self-awareness and supports opportunity access, empowering students to develop a belief in their ability to succeed.

Learning Objectives:

1) Facilitate student use of affirmations to build self-efficacy and resilience 2) Integrate affirmations activities into classroom, small-group or one-on-one counseling 3) Connect affirmations to academic, career and social/emotional development goals

Speakers:

- Danielle Reidfilak, *Product Content Strategist, Encoura*
- Angela Combs, *Content Designer, Encoura*

Partnerships with Families and SROs

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Creating safe, inclusive and equitable school environments requires collaboration among school counselors, families and safety teams. Hear how school counselors can lead and advocate for partnerships that strengthen well-being and safety. Walk away with strategies for engaging families and collaborating with school resource officers, with particular emphasis placed on trauma-informed, culturally responsive practices, parent-inclusive safety structures and school counselor advocacy. Identify ASCA position statements guiding collaboration, explain trauma-informed SRO training, describe family engagement strategies and apply family-inclusive practices to promote safe, supportive schools.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify ASCA position statements and components of the ASCA National Model® that guide school counselors' collaborative role in promoting student-centered safety 2) Explain the value of trauma-informed and mental health training for school resource officers (SROs) as part of building culturally responsive, equitable school practices 3) Describe strategies for engaging families and community partners through meetings and inclusive practices to strengthen trust and create an inclusive school culture 4) Discuss ways to integrate family-inclusive practices that empower families as partners in promoting safe and supportive learning environments

Speakers:

- Jennifer Stover, *Assistant Professor, Sam Houston State University*
- Veronica Douglas, *Johnson, Caddo Parish Schools, Shreveport, LA*
- Dr. Jamal Boudion, *School Counselor, CT Janet School, Marrero, LA and Adjunct Faculty Member, University of Holy Cross*
- Ashley Baines, *Teaching Faculty, Antioch University*

11:00 AM - 11:20 AM CDT

Teamwork Makes the Framework

11:00 AM - 11:20 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

It takes a dream team to build a top-tier school counseling program – and it's not always easy. Get a behind-the-scenes look at how district leaders, principals and school counselors joined forces, faced challenges head-on and earned RAMP® recognition. Leave with fresh ideas, relationship-building tips and a renewed belief that collaboration really is the secret sauce for student success.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the unique and complementary roles of district leaders, school administrators and school counselors in building strong school counseling programs 2) Apply collaboration strategies to strengthen partnerships and address challenges in your own school or district

Speakers:

- Kathryn Doss, *School Counselor, Vista Grande Elementary School, Rio Rancho, NM*
- Miriah Affentranger, *Director of Counseling, Rio Rancho Public Schools, Rio Rancho, NM*
- Christine Prescott, *Principal, Vista Grande Elementary School, Rio Rancho, NM*

What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up?

11:00 AM - 11:20 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Career exploration is vital for young learners to understand various professions and their roles in society. Learn about a Career Discovery Stations initiative to create designated areas within elementary schools where K–3 students can engage in play-based activities centered around different careers. These stations feature a variety of career-themed toys and props, such as veterinarian kits, beauty shop accessories, dentist tools, restaurant playsets, paleontology digs, architecture building blocks and more. By integrating play-based learning with career exploration, students can develop early awareness of different professions while having fun.

Learning Objectives: 1) Design and implement Career Discovery Stations that engage K–3 students in play-based career exploration 2) Facilitate role-playing experiences that encourage creativity, problem-solving and self-expression 3) Lead guided reflection and discussion to help students connect play experiences to real-world careers and personal interests 4) Apply strategies to integrate career awareness into early elementary curriculum in a developmentally appropriate way

Speakers:

- Sarah Ritchie, *School Counselor, King George Elementary School, King George, VA*

ASCA Student Standards Fast Facts

11:00 AM - 11:20 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The ASCA Student Standards: Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success are the knowledge, attitudes and skills students need to achieve academic success, college/career readiness and

social/emotional development. Learn to select developmentally appropriate, effective ASCA Student Standards for your achievement gap plan.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify the purpose of the ASCA Student Standards 2) Strategize how to select appropriate ASCA Student Standards 3) Use the ASCA Student Standards to drive the content and assessment of your school counseling program

Speakers:

- Onna Mechanic-Holland, *Education Specialist, School Counseling, RI Dept. of Education, ASCA Certified Trainer*

FERPA and PPRA Compliance

11:00 AM - 11:20 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs every word a school counselor maintains on a student, regardless of the means for storing the information. The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) determines what information school counselors are allowed to gather on a student and the eight protected areas that require opt-in or opt-out parent/guardian involvement. Focus on role-specific case analysis addressing these two federal laws around sole possession/school counseling records, legitimate educational interest, information sharing, parent/guardian and student notification, privacy issues, protected areas and disclosure consent/exceptions. Gain a heightened awareness of FERPA and PPRA compliance to help avoid unintentional breaches and resultant negative consequences.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify key FERPA and PPRA requirements related to student privacy, information sharing and parent/guardian consent in school counseling practice

Speakers:

- Carolyn Stone, *Professor Emerita, University of North Florida*

Sunday, July 12

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM CDT

SEL for Freshmen Success

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Freshman year sets the foundation for high school success, yet many students face unique academic and social/emotional challenges during this critical transition. Explore the design and

implementation of a Freshman SEL course and hear strategies to create and foster programs that build self-awareness, resilience, healthy relationships and academic skills while addressing issues like body image, self-esteem, belonging and stress management. Walk away with practical strategies, lesson examples and concrete tools to adapt in your school.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the core social/emotional challenges faced by high school freshmen, particularly girls, and their impact on academic and personal success 2) Recognize and explain the essential components of an SEL course for freshman students, including effective lesson design, alignment with schoolwide initiatives and strategies for collaboration with faculty and families 3) Apply practical strategies, resources and adaptable lesson plans to develop or enhance SEL programming for freshman students in your school

Speakers:

- Jenna Wilker, *School Counselor, Saint Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, OH*

CANCELLED: From Curious to Career-Ready

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Middle school is a pivotal time to spark curiosity about the future if you can get students interested. Learn to design a college and career exploration program that effectively engages younger students through captivating assessments; video content; and small, consistent college and career activities included throughout the year. Hear lessons from a successful pilot program with eighth-grade students, and receive a step-by-step framework to expand exploration opportunities at sixth and seventh grades. Focus on making career discovery fun, age-appropriate and sustainable, while keeping postsecondary pathways top of mind in ways that empower students to imagine and plan for their futures.

Learning Objectives:

1) Design middle school career exploration programs using age-appropriate, engaging strategies, such as fun career assessments and video content 2) Integrate college and career readiness touchpoints in small, consistent doses across the school year 3) Create a practical action plan to adapt and implement a middle school exploration program in your own school or district

Speakers:

- Paula Perryman, *Director of Career & Technical Education, Olympia School District, Olympia, WA*

School Counselor Roles in 504s

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

School counselors are often asked to take on responsibilities in Section 504 processes that do not align with professional and ethical standards. Analyze the ASCA position statement: The School Counselor and Section 504 Plan and Process to clarify appropriate school counselor roles. Through interactive case studies, role-play scenarios and advocacy practice, learn to navigate

challenging conversations, define boundaries and promote equitable student access. Leave with concrete strategies and tools you can use immediately to advocate effectively within your school.

Learning Objectives:

1) Examine the ASCA position statement to define appropriate school counselor roles in the 504 process 2) Practice role-play scenarios to strengthen advocacy skills when asked to perform duties outside your scope 3) Apply new tools and language to advocate for ethical participation in 504 meetings and support student accommodations 4) Collaborate with colleagues in hands-on activities to develop action plans you can implement immediately in your school

Speakers:

- Jessica Conter, *Resource Counselor, Quince Orchard High School, Gaithersburg, MD*

NACAC Presents: College Admission Trends

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The last few years have resulted in sweeping changes to the college admissions counseling landscape. In this session, Unpack the latest admissions trends, and get key takeaways to empower your work as a school counselor. Delve into NACAC's research and analysis through perspectives from college and admission counseling professionals. Focus on the latest shifts in the field.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the latest trends affecting college admissions
2. Better serve your students by integrating data-informed insights
3. Get a sense of the future of the college admissions counseling landscape
4. Recognize the benefits of NACAC research, professional development, advocacy and publications

Speakers:

- Cameron Hair, *Assistant Director, Research Initiatives and Partnerships , National Association for College Admissions Counseling*

ASCA in Your Neighborhood: Crisis Response for Immigrant Students

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The intensified immigration enforcement activities across the country have had a tremendous impact on students, families and school staff. Join this special in-person neighborhood conversation to focus on supporting students, staff and one another during this difficult time.

Learning Objectives:

1) Discuss ways to advocate for students and families through ongoing immigration enforcement

Speakers:

- Charles Williams, *School Counselor, School of Science and Engineering, Dallas, TX*
- Mads Bourdon, *School Counselor, North Clackamas School District, Portland, OR*
- Angela Avery, *School Counselor, Sanford Middle School, Sanford, ME*
- Gabrielle Brundidge, *School Counselor, Lee Roy Myers Middle School, Savannah, GA*

Become an ASCA-Certified School Counselor®

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The ASCA-Certified School Counselor® (ACSC®) certification demonstrates school counselor knowledge in designing, implementing and assessing a school counseling program. Learn about ACSC® recognition, including the benefits, eligibility and application process.

Learning Objectives:

1) Summarize the eligibility requirements, application process and benefits of the ASCA-Certified School Counselor® designation 2) Explain the correlation between ACSC® and other ASCA recognition programs

Speakers:

- Jen Walsh, *Director, Education & Training, ASCA*

Thrive in a New School Counseling Role

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Whether you're new to the profession, new to a building or simply starting over in a different role, stepping into a new school counseling position can feel both exciting and overwhelming. How do you build trust, gain visibility and establish a strong program when you're just beginning? Hear practical strategies and mindset shifts for thriving in any new school counseling role. Learn to balance expectations, build relationships quickly and lay the foundation for a comprehensive, data-informed program without burning out. Leave with a toolkit of communication hacks, visibility strategies and planning tools to feel confident and connected from day one.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify common challenges and opportunities when starting a new school counseling role 2) Apply strategies to build presence, trust and relationships in a new setting 3) Develop a 30-60-90 day action plan to launch a comprehensive counseling program

Speakers:

- Carey Hughes, *School Counselor, Lee's Summit R-7 Schools, Lee Summit, MO*

Social/Emotional Learning Affinity Group Meeting

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Join the Social/Emotional Learning Affinity Group at an in-person meeting. Network with like-minded peers, connect with colleagues with shared challenges and discuss solutions and resources. The Social/Emotional Learning Affinity Group is dedicated to helping school counselors best support their school communities by creating a space to collaborate, network and share resources and best practices.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

11:35 AM - 11:55 AM CDT

From Drab to Fab

11:35 AM - 11:55 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Learn about 20 essential items for your school counseling office that are effective and affordable. These tools will quickly enhance your space and improve your interactions with students. Keep these tools on hand to be used when working with students in individual and small-group counseling to help facilitate positive interactions and teach the ASCA Student Standards. Learn how these tools can help facilitate productive counseling sessions with students. Refresh your practices, give your space a makeover and enhance your students' experiences.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify 20 practical items to add to your school counseling office to enhance both the physical environment and student engagement 2) List ways to integrate selected items into individual and small-group counseling practices for alignment with the ASCA Student Standards

Speakers:

- Diana Chandra, *School Counselor, Camp Hill School District, Camp Hill, PA*

The 2026 Fab 5 Greatest Hits

11:35 AM - 11:55 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Learn five ways the 2026 School Counselor of the Year finalists innovate, invigorate and influence student success through their school counseling programs, with a musical twist.

Learning Objectives:

1. Hear fresh school counseling perspectives
2. Identify ways to incorporate music into your school counseling programs

Speakers:

- Danielle Crankfield, *School Counselor, Crofton High School, Gambrills, Md., 2026 School Counselor of the Year*
- Annie Goldberg, *School Counselor, Broadview Middle School, Burlington, NC*
- Lydia Larimore, *School Counselor, Neabsco Elementary School, Woodbridge, Va.*
- Leka Anitema, *School Counselor, Maui High School, Kahului, HI*
- Summer Royale Whittington, *School Counselor, Ernest Gallet Elementary School, Youngsville, La.*

RAMP®-Ready Graphs

11:35 AM - 11:55 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

School counselors share data to show how students benefit from a school counseling program. Charts and graphs summarize this data, illustrating what students learned through participation in the school counseling program and the impact learning had on student achievement. Learn to create RAMP®-ready graphs and charts to showcase the amazing work you're doing.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Create RAMP®-ready charts and graphs

Speakers:

- Sarah Kirk, *ASCA-Certified Trainer, and Owner, Yoga 4 Classrooms*

School Shootings: Lessons Learned

11:35 AM - 11:55 AM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Three high-profile criminal cases have grabbed headlines involving, among larger issues, the school counselor role in threat assessment, suicide risk concerns and school safety policy development. These cases in Virginia, Georgia and Michigan underscore the commitment school counselors have in identifying school safety concerns; yet the cases also underscore the difficult position school counselors find themselves in when required to do the impossible: quantify the lethality of a threat or the likelihood of a suicide. Dissecting these court cases, which resulted in the shooters' parents being successfully charged with child abuse/murder/manslaughter, provides school counselors caught in this quandary with confidence to work responsibly toward change in their school district's policies.

Learning Objectives:

1) Examine key lessons from recent school shooting cases to better understand the school counselor's role in threat assessment, suicide risk concerns and school safety policy development.

Speakers:

- Carolyn Stone, *Professor Emerita, University of North Florida*

Sunday, July 12

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM CDT

Lunch in Exhibit Hall

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Sunday, July 12

12:10 PM - 12:30 PM CDT

Mindfulness in Action

12:10 PM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Mindfulness practices are powerful tools for supporting students' social/emotional development, yet many school counselors struggle to understand how to implement mindful moments within a school counseling program. View a live demonstration of what mindful moments look like in the direct student services school counselors provide, including classroom instruction, small-groups and individual support. The interactive demonstration will bring the ASCA Student Standards to life by showing developmentally appropriate practices, including breathing techniques, guided visualizations and mindful movement that align with key ASCA Student Standards.

Learning Objectives: 1) Demonstrate brief, evidence-based mindfulness strategies that promote the attainment of the ASCA Student Standards, including learning strategies, self-management skills and social skills

Speakers:

- Sarah Kirk, *ASCA-Certified Trainer, and Owner, Yoga 4 Classrooms*

Design Engaging Curriculum with AI

12:10 PM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Developing engaging, developmentally appropriate school counseling lessons can take hours of preparation – time school counselors often don't have. Artificial intelligence (AI) offers a powerful solution, helping school counselors quickly generate lesson ideas, activities and differentiated strategies while still maintaining creativity and ethical practice. Walk through practical, user-friendly ways to use AI to design classroom lessons and small-group activities that align with the ASCA

National Model®.

Learning Objectives: 1) identify at least three AI tools or techniques that can assist in developing school counseling lessons

Speakers:

- Lindsay Harman, *Assistant Professor, University of Denver*

Annual Administrator Conference

12:10 PM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The annual administrator conference guides the formal discussion between school counselors and the administrator in charge of the school counseling program about the program's organization, goals, plans and use of time. Hear best practices when completing your annual administrator conference to best communicate your program priorities for success for each and every student.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Identify best practices when completing your annual administrator conference

Speakers:

- Dianne Andree, *Certified ASCA Trainer*

Ethical/Legal Considerations: Suicidal Risk

12:10 PM - 12:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

School counselors regularly navigate complex ethical and legal considerations when responding to students at risk for suicide. Review key ethical standards, legal responsibilities and best-practice decision-making related to navigating suicide risk and response in schools.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify key ethical standards and legal responsibilities that guide school counselors when responding to students experiencing suicidal risk
2. Examine common ethical dilemmas that arise in suicide risk situations, including confidentiality, duty to warn, and parental notification

Speakers:

- Sara Carpenter, *School Counselor, Ladue Schools, St. Louis, MO*

Sunday, July 12

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CDT

Data Diving

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Dive in with data. No matter your experience level, there's something here for everyone. The importance of effectively collecting, analyzing and applying data to enhance student outcomes is emphasized in the ASCA National Model®, the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors and the ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies. Focus on developing achievement gap plans based on student data. Learn from two RAMP® school counseling departments about effective strategies for data usage in supporting student outcomes and addressing achievement gaps. Leave with actionable strategies that help you advocate for data-informed decisions and amplify your school counseling program's impact.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify various ways to incorporate data collection to build and organize school counseling programs 2) Utilize data to formulate achievement gap goals 3) Analyze program data to develop advocacy strategies that support the school counseling program and student success

Speakers:

- Shanna Mitchell-Jones, *School Counselor, Unity Grove Elementary School, Locust Grove, GA*
- Premlata Miller, *School Counselor, New Hope Elementary School, Locust Grove, GA*

Use Athletes to Inspire

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

College athletes are more than players; they're leaders, role models and powerful partners in school counseling. Learn to connect with your local university's athletic department and bring athletes into your school for mentorship, leadership panels, life-skills lessons and more. No college nearby or not a sports-focused school? No problem. Discover creative ways to use athlete voices to inspire all students through storytelling, service and identity work. Walk away with practical strategies to boost engagement and inclusion by seeing athletes for who they truly are: more than a jersey.

Learning Objectives: 1) Strategize ways to initiate partnerships with local college athletic departments 2) Describe creative ways to integrate college athletes into academic, career and SEL-focused programming 3) Discuss strategies for engaging all students – including non-athletes – through athlete-led initiatives 4) Identify adaptable, actionable ideas to enhance your counseling program with easily accessible resources

Speakers:

- Christina Welch, *School Counselor, Journey Middle School, Charlottesville, VA*
- Ellen Cook, *Director of Student Athlete Development, Athletic Department, University of Virginia*

Reduce Chronic Absenteeism

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Chronic absenteeism is one of the greatest barriers to academic success. Explore how school counselors can lead initiatives to improve attendance through relationship-building, incentive programs and data-informed interventions. Drawing from research and school-based practices, hear practical tools and replicable strategies to implement immediately in your school. Leave with a framework for developing creative, culturally responsive and sustainable approaches to reduce absenteeism and increase student engagement.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify systemic and student-level factors that contribute to chronic absenteeism 2) Use data to design an incentive-based and relationship-driven intervention plan

Speakers:

- Angela Johnson, *School Counselor, Red Clay Consolidated School District, Wilmington, DE*
- Kristin Nye, *School Counselor, Anna P. Mote Elementary School, Wilmington, DE*

Collaborate for Comprehensive Student Support

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Student mental health and opportunity gaps call for more than good intentions – they require strong, unified systems of support. Learn to strengthen collaboration between school counselors and school social workers by clarifying complementary roles and building proactive practices within MTSS. Grounded in the ASCA Student Standards and ASCA Professional Standards & Competencies, explore practical tools, such as lesson and small-group plans and data reports. Hear real examples of how integrated teams use data to close gaps, expand access and meet student needs from prevention through intensive intervention. Leave with strategies you can adapt immediately to make your team's work more coordinated, impactful and student-centered.

Learning Objectives:

1) Clarify the roles and responsibilities of school counselors and school social workers 2) Design a collaborative MTSS framework that integrates the ASCA National Model® to address student needs from prevention to intensive intervention 3) Interpret disaggregated data to identify inequities and drive improvements in program delivery 4) Apply ASCA National Model® templates to improve communication, goal-setting and results measurement

Speakers:

- Melissa Gillard, *Coordinator of School Counseling Services, Reading School District, Reading, PA*
- Leanne Eckenrode, *Coordinator of Social Work Services, Reading School District, Reading, PA*

Support Homeless Students

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Learn about the McKinney-Vento Act and its implications in the school setting for homeless students. Explore practical interventions and supports to meet students' academic and social/emotional needs, and identify strategies for collaborating with your district's homeless liaison. Discover ways to advocate for homeless students, ensure they have access to resources and foster stability. Leave with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively support students experiencing homelessness.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss the McKinney-Vento Act and how it applies to the educational setting 2) Identify and understand specific interventions and supports school counselors can provide to students experiencing homelessness 3) Brainstorm ways to collaborate with your district homeless liaison to better support students experiencing homelessness

Speakers:

- Lisa Fulton, *Coordinator of Student Services, Abington Middle School, Abington, PA*
- Sandy Seaux, *School Counselor and Homeless Liaison, Carlisle Area School District, Carlisle, PA*

Movement for Mental Health

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Research supports that movement benefits mental health – think regulation, mental illness, holistic wellness and even academic success. But how can school counselors harness this tool to effectively incorporate it into direct services for students? Learn the evidence and science behind movement for mental health and how it specifically can apply to students at All Experience Levels. Walk away with real-life applications to be integrate into all types of direct services. Learn how to move your students – mentally and physically.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss the effects of movement on student mental health 2) Identify the neurological science and research behind movement and mental health 3) Strategize ways to integrate movement for student mental health into your school counseling program through direct services

Speakers:

- Natae Feenstra, *Assistant Professor, Liberty University*

From Chaos to Calm

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Effective classroom management is essential for creating safe, supportive and engaging learning environments, and school counselors play a critical role in modeling and supporting these practices. Explore innovative and practical strategies to strengthen classroom management skills while fostering positive relationships, promoting success for each and every student and addressing diverse student needs. Learn to incorporate engaging techniques such as restorative practices, SEL integration and proactive behavior interventions to support large-group lessons and collaborative work with teachers. Leave with a toolkit of strategies designed to increase student engagement and reduce disruptions.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify and apply innovative classroom management strategies school counselors can use during classroom lessons, small-group instruction and collaborative work with teachers to enhance student engagement and maintain a positive learning environment 2) Integrate social/emotional learning and restorative practices into classroom management approaches to proactively address student behaviors, build stronger relationships and promote success for each and every student 3) Collaborate effectively with teachers and school staff by sharing data-informed insights; advocating for student needs; and co-creating consistent, student-centered approaches that support student success

Speakers:

- Shannon Hudson-Odoi, *Mental Health Coordinator, Prince George's County Public Schools, Oxon Hill, MD*
- Keisha Branch, *Counseling Instructional Specialist, Prince George's County Public Schools*

Transforming Ninth Grade

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM, Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Freshman year sets the foundation for high school success; however, it is often the most challenging transition for students. Explore how having a freshman focus can improve student success. Investing in freshmen means investing in the future of the entire school. By ensuring ninth graders have the support they need to successfully navigate the transition to high school, school counselors can significantly improve long-term outcomes, including higher graduation rates, improved academic achievement and stronger postsecondary readiness. Walk away with a yearlong calendar of lessons, interventions and resources, highlighting strategies across all tiers of support.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify ninth-grade students' key transition needs, and apply targeted strategies to support academic, career and social/emotional success 2) Differentiate interventions across MTSS tiers to address the unique needs of freshmen 3) Implement college and career readiness lessons that build foundational skills and awareness during the critical ninth-grade year 4) Develop data-informed practices for monitoring and ninth-grade outcomes

Speakers:

- CJ Conrad, *School Counselor, Cloverleaf High School, Lodi, OH*

Embed PCEs into your School Counseling Program

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Although much attention has focused on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), emerging research highlights the equally powerful role of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) in promoting resilience, well-being and success. Explore the research and science of PCEs, and learn practical strategies to intentionally embed them into your school counseling program. Through the sharing of research, reflection and action planning, leave with concrete tools to integrate PCEs into lessons, small-groups, family partnerships and more.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss the research on positive childhood experiences (PCEs) and their impact on resilience and mental health 2) Identify practical strategies to embed PCEs into school counseling programs, lessons and small groups 3) Explore ways to strengthen family partnerships that reinforce PCEs 4) Develop an actionable plan for implementing PCE-informed practices in your school setting

Speakers:

- Jaime Grammer, *School Counseling Manager, Tennessee Department of Education*

Suicide Prevention for All Students

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Suicide remains the second-leading cause of death among youth ages 10–24. In supporting all students, school counselors teach resiliency skills and potentially prevent suicide. Learn tools to make this difficult topic manageable. Understand how to decrease suicidal ideation among students by proactively teaching coping skills and other tier-leveled systems of support in your program. Identify suicide prevention interventions, as well as plan events for Suicide Prevention Month in the fall. Brainstorm ways to find your students' voices and save lives by connecting each and every student with a trusted adult and the support they need to persevere and thrive.

Learning Objectives:

1) Summarize recent data, statistics and research related to suicide rates among youth 2) Identify Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports for suicide prevention as part of a school counseling program 3) Develop a comprehensive plan for suicide prevention and ideas to connect each and every student in your building 4) Design an outline of events for Suicide Prevention Month in September

Speakers:

- Angela Avery, *School Counselor, Sanford Middle School, Sanford, ME*

A Tiered Approach to Postsecondary Success

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Explore how each and every student can achieve postsecondary success through a structured, tiered school counseling approach. Hear strategies across all three tiers, and understand alignment with the three ASCA domains. Learn to design programs that help students set long- and short-term academic, career and social/emotional goals. Address the needs of each and every student,

including vulnerable or underserved populations. Leave with a practical blueprint of strategies, interventions and resources you can adapt to strengthen postsecondary outcomes in your school.

Learning Objectives: 1) Implement a tiered school counseling approach tailored to your school's population to promote postsecondary success for each and every student 2) Apply best practices for designing and facilitating targeted interventions across all three tiers of support 3) Develop and use a master tracker to monitor and document students' postsecondary goals and progress 4) Adapt tiered strategies and resources to meet the unique needs of diverse or vulnerable student groups within your school communities

Speakers:

- Jessica Ramirez, *School Counselor, North-Grand High School, Chicago, IL*
- Nicole Simon, *School Counselor, North-Grand High School, Chicago, IL*
- Charvis Peoples, *School Counselor, Niles West High School, Skokie, Illinois*

ASCA National Model® Implementation Plan

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

ASCA National Model® implementation doesn't have to be intimidating if you tackle it in phases. Learn about the ASCA National Model® phased implementation plan and get a timeline to implement an ASCA National Model® program. If you struggle with how to start, when to start and where to start, this is the session for you.

Learning Objectives: 1) Summarize the suggested timeline for ASCA National Model® implementation 2) Identify ASCA resources to help with ASCA National Model® implementation

Speakers:

- Kinea Epps
- Kelly O'Brien Weaver, *School Counselor, Hampden Academy, Hampden, Maine*

ASCA Recognition for Master's Programs

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Universities accredited by CAEP, AAQEP or another regional education college accreditor can apply for ASCA's national recognition of their school counseling master's degree program. Programs must demonstrate their program meets the ASCA School Counselor Preparation Program Standards. Learn how to apply for recognition and complete the program report in the new ASCA portal. Elevate your university's school counseling master's degree program with this prestigious national acknowledgment.

Learning Objectives:

1) Summarize the process to apply for and complete the program report for ASCA National Recognition for School Counseling Preparation Programs

Speakers:

- Carol Kaffenberger, *Associate Professor Emerita, George Mason University*
- Nikki Ham, *Assistant Professor, Bowie State University*
- Dr. Ann Tilman, *Associate Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University*
- Dr. Sherri Barrow, *Assistant Teaching Professor, Ball State University*
- Angie Hickman, CAE, *Director of Research and Marketing, ASCA*

Disrupt the Default

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

“This doesn’t work for us.” Sound familiar? In alternative education, traditional Tier 1 lessons often fall short. Explore how to build culturally responsive, context-aware Tier 1 supports that reflect the real needs of students in non-traditional settings. Focus on reimagining Tier 1 with flexible schedules, small cohorts and individualized supports. Walk away with adaptable tools, student-centered strategies and actionable practices to make Tier 1 meaningful and equitable so each and every student feels seen, heard and supported.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify Tier 1 tools and strategies for varied learning models. 2) Brainstorm ways to personalize Tier 1 supports to address students’ diverse needs across the academic, career and social/emotional and domains 3) Adapt Tier 1 tools for varied learning models, including flexible schedules and individualized instruction 4) List practical strategies that help each and every student feel seen, heard and supported – regardless of school type or setting.

Speakers:

- Patricia Ochoa-Lujan, *School Counselor, Crescent View South II Public Charter School, Fresno CA*
- Alysha Kelly, *School Counselor, Crescent View South II Public Charter School, Fresno CA*
- Samantha Geiger, *School Counselor, Crescent View South II Public Charter School, Fresno CA*

Unite School Counselors, Administrators & Teachers

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Advocacy is strongest when educators work together with a shared vision for student success. Understand the critical collaboration between school counselors, administrators and teachers to foster positive school climates and support achievement for each and every student. Walk away with practical tools and strategies to strengthen advocacy through shared responsibility, clear communication and a deeper understanding of each role’s impact. Leave empowered to build and sustain collaborative partnerships that remove barriers and improve outcomes for each and every student.

Learning Objectives: 1) Define advocacy within the context of school counseling and education 2) Describe how school counselors, administrators and teachers contribute to effective advocacy efforts 3) Identify common barriers to collaboration and examine strategies to overcome them 4) Describe practical approaches for building strong, sustainable partnerships that foster equity,

remove obstacles and support positive outcomes for each and every student.

Speakers:

- Dr. LaWanda Felder-Myers, *School Counselor, Cross Elementary School, Cross, SC*
- Miranda Manning Page, *School Counselor, Dillon Elementary School, Dillon, SC*

Resilience in Action

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The immense changes and loss wrought by societal issues have created significant stress and trauma for school communities. Even the loss of what a typical day looks like and feeling safe interacting with others in group settings have required adjustments in our work. Focus on the implications of collective trauma, and walk away with 10 action steps you can use to equip students with readiness skills to navigate life's challenges.

Learning Objectives: 1) List ways trauma affects students 2) Recognize exhibited trauma signals 3) Discuss culturally responsive ways to respond to trauma to support students 4) Reflect on your own practice and contemplate changes you can implement to increase students' life-readiness factors

Speakers:

- Meredith Draughn, *Student Support Counseling Lead, Alamance-Burlington School System, Burlington, NC*

Rural School Counselors Affinity Group Meeting

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Join the Rural School Counselor Affinity Group at an in-person meeting. Network with like-minded peers, connect with colleagues with shared challenges and discuss solutions and resources. The Rural School Counselors Affinity Group empowers members by providing a sense of belonging and professional development through creation of authentic connections and sharing insights to inspire rural school counselors when facing the unique challenges of their role.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM CDT

Exclusive Exhibit Hall Time

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM CDT

Quiet Confidence: Lead & Advocate as an Introvert

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Do you find yourself dreading Monday morning small talk more than the average human? Do you secretly hope that the phone call to the challenging parent goes straight to voicemail? Do you struggle with feeling ineffective at your job because you're not as outgoing as your colleagues? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, you might be an introvert. Learn about the characteristics of introversion and how to use your introverted traits as tools to provide creative leadership and advocacy in a school culture where socialization and extroversion are the norm. Leave with concrete tips and tricks to help you navigate participating in large meetings, advocating to your administrator and building rapport with your students.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Recognize introverted traits, in both themselves and their students
- 2) Identify concrete ways to use your strengths as an introvert to problem-solve, build relationships with colleagues, lead in your workplace and advocate for your students
- 3) Adopt strategies to build confidence without sacrificing your true self and experiencing burnout

Speakers:

- Katelyn Leboeuf, *School Counselor, Marshwood High School, MSAD 35, South Berwick, Maine*

Critical Conversations for Rural School Counselors

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Rural school counselors face unique challenges rarely discussed in textbooks. Join two veteran rural school counselors to hear real stories from the field about common challenges such as role ambiguity, isolation and community resistance – and how they intersect with ASCA Student Standards and the ASCA National Model®. Learn to manage and deliver a comprehensive school counseling program in a rural setting, strengthen program reach and create systemic change that removes barriers to student success. Leave with knowledge of field-tested strategies, an action plan, and ready-to-use tools to enhance student access, life-readiness and academic success. Gain the confidence, competence and connections to turn rural school counseling challenges into

opportunities for lasting impact.

Learning Objectives:

1) Apply the information learned to manage and deliver a comprehensive school counseling program in rural school counseling settings 2) Strategize how to navigate common challenges occurring in the rural school setting 3) Develop and implement an action plan applying at least one new strategy or tool that enhances student access, life-readiness, or academic success

Speakers:

- Franciene Sabens, *School Counselor, Herrin High School, Herrin, IL*
- Leslie Goines, *School Counselor, Massac County High School, Metropolis, IL*

Out-of-the-Office Techniques

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Strong student/school counselor relationships are key to effective school counseling programs, but we can get stuck in superficial interactions and be unsure of how to create meaningful, deep connections with students. Discover unconventional strategies to expand and strengthen your relationships with students by going beyond your office walls. Discover strategies aligned to ASCA Student Standard B-SS 3, which focuses on how trusted relationships with adults help students feel safe, seen and supported. Get an example ASCA Use-of-Time 5-Day Calculator that incorporates out-of-the-office techniques to increase time spent on school counseling tasks. Walk away with ready-to-use ideas that fit seamlessly into the school day, and gain a fresh perspective on the power of your presence.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the impact of trusted adult relationships on students' sense of safety, belonging and connection 2) Reflect on and reimagine how your time is spent during the school day by using the ASCA Use-of-Time 5-Day Calculator 3) Integrate intentional presence into everyday routines during the school day to help students feel seen and supported

Speakers:

- Allison Waymire, *School Counselor, Prairie Park Elementary School, Lawrence, KS*

The Weight We Carry

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

School counselors are often the emotional anchors in their schools, guiding students through crisis, trauma and transition. Beneath our strength lies an unspoken truth: many school counselors silently carry the weight of others' pain while neglecting their own needs. Go beyond a generic conversation about self-care. Rooted in ethics and the lived realities of the profession, hear an honest, powerful exploration of how school counselors can remain effective and compassionate without sacrificing their own well-being.

Learning Objectives: 1) Recognize the hidden signs of stress, burnout and secondary trauma in yourself and others 2) Apply the ASCA Ethical Standards, Section B3: Responsibilities to Self: to guide decisions that balance professional responsibilities with personal health 3) Describe the importance of self-compassion and giving oneself grace 4) Acknowledge when all reasonable

efforts have been made, and reframe unmet outcomes without internalizing guilt or perceiving them as personal failure 5) Implement practical, research-based self-care and resilience-building strategies that are sustainable, realistic and immediately applicable in the demanding environment of school counseling

Speakers:

- Kimberlie D. Richardson, *Education Specialist II: School Counseling, Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, MD*

Partner for Tiered Mental Health Support

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The mental and behavioral health needs of today's students are growing, but school counselors don't have to shoulder the burden alone. Feel empowered to serve as strategic connectors within MTSS, using gap analysis tools and ASCA-aligned practices to identify student needs across tiers. Learn to uncover service gaps, prioritize supports and leverage ASCA's achievement gap plan. Explore building referral networks and partnerships with community mental health and state wellness services to serve each and every student. Leave with tools, templates and a tailored action plan – ready to lead comprehensive support systems reaffirming you're never alone.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Conduct a gap analysis to identify missing supports within a tiered system of care
- 2) Align school counseling services with external partnerships (community, county, state) to address identified needs
- 3) Use data to drive decision-making and prioritize interventions across MTSS tiers
- 4) Brainstorm ways to build sustainable relationships that reinforce mental and behavioral health supports for each and every student

Speakers:

- Shannon Jenkins, *Mental Health Coordinator, Thompson School District, Loveland, CO*
- Summer Martin, *Executive Director, Counseling & Social Services, Richardson Independent School District, Richardson, TX*

Hidden Needs of High Performers

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Although academically gifted students typically have superior school performance compared with their peers, research indicates they have increased social/emotional difficulties. High-achieving students' anxiety may be manifested in low perceived academic self-confidence, engagement and social connectivity in school. Learn about research-based and data-informed best practices for school counseling interventions to support high-achieving students' social/emotional needs.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the specific social/emotional learning needs of high-achieving students 2) Explore implementation of school counseling interventions aligned with the ASCA National Model® at the secondary level 3) Support high-achieving students throughout school and prepare them for postsecondary success

Speakers:

- Andréa Spence, *School Counselor, POLYTECH High School, Woodside, DE*
- Dr. Krissy Hall

Pave the Way to Successful School Reentry

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Students with extended absences due to health, disciplinary or family issues need a supported return to school. They're not just re-entering a classroom, they're rejoining a community. Balancing attendance policies with equitable education and re-entry plans are a compassionate and compliant way to help students succeed. Learn about Pennsylvania's new re-entry resource, which provides practical strategies, templates and planning tools that align with educational policies and student support frameworks. The resource helps educators create intentional, supported and successful re-entry plans, whether a student was out for two weeks recovering from surgery or two months managing a mental health crisis. Each and every student's return should be met with care and a clear path forward.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify considerations for developing intentional, supported re-entry plans 2) Align re-entry strategies with educational policies 3) Utilize practical tools and templates 4) Improve alignment of attendance with achievement

Speakers:

- Karen Rubican, *School Counselor Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education*
- Dana Milakovic, *Assistant Director, Office of School Climate and Wellbeing, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg, PA*

Highly Sensitive Students 101

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

More and more students are entering school with increased sensory sensitivity. The lights are too bright, the lunchroom is too loud or the classroom is too hot/cold. Then there are the students who are considered "big feelers" because of how easy they become emotionally dysregulated. Sensory overload leads to mental, physical and/or emotional shut down, which not only inhibits students' ability to learn but also their social/emotional well-being. By understanding the highly sensitive person's unique experience of the world and the ensuing challenges, school personnel can better navigate and support each and every child's ability to learn and succeed.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify and assist highly sensitive students in overcoming sensory barriers within the school environment 2) Acquire ideas and strategies to support highly sensitive students with the implementation of effective coping skills

Speakers:

- Melissa Hansen, *Retired School Counselor, Omaha, NE*

Advocacy via School Counseling Skills

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Discover how to use your core counseling skills like empathy, genuineness, unconditional positive regard and more as powerful advocacy tools for your role and your students. Learn strategies to communicate your program's value, build trust with school leaders and influence decisions to remove barriers to student success. Walk away with practical techniques to create buy-in, integrate advocacy into daily interactions and elevate the school counseling profession within your building and district.

Learning Objectives:

1) Apply core counseling skills to advocate for student needs to influence school policies to help each and every student succeed 2) Demonstrate empathic understanding in leadership interactions to build trust and support advocacy efforts 3) Brainstorm ways to build collaborative relationships with school leaders to advocate for systemic change and promote success for each and every student

Speakers:

- Lucas Grant, LPC, NCC, *School Counselor, Lovell Middle School, Lovell, WY*
- William Hiser, *Superintendent, Big Horn County School District #2, Lovell, WY*

Help Low-Income Students Pay for College

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Cost is often one of the major barriers preventing low-income students from accessing higher education. On the other hand, some generous colleges that meet full financial need can struggle to get applications from low-income students, especially when their low-income identities intersect with other identities such as being rural, first-generation students, etc. Focus on bridging the information gap and help low-income students make informed college decisions while considering financial fit. Focus on ways to help low-income students navigate the college search and application process and obtain the most financial aid and scholarships.

Learning Objectives: 1) Strategize ways to help low-income students build college lists 2) Brainstorm ways to help low-income students build a strong candidacy for selective colleges that meet full need 2) Discuss ways to help low-income students navigate the financial aid process 3) Empower low-income students in the scholarship search and application process

Speakers:

- Xi Zhang, *High School Counselor, STEM Prep Academy High School, Nashville, TN*

Hey Data, Meet AI

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Learn how school counselors are leveraging AI to transform how they interpret and act on data. Hear practical tools and real examples for using AI to analyze qualitative and quantitative data, identify trends and develop program goals aligned with ASCA Student Standards. Learn to generate themes from open-ended responses, create visuals for presentations and use insights to develop SEL and MTSS interventions. Explore time-saving AI tools for lesson planning, newsletters and group organization. Discover tips for writing prompts, ethical guardrails and live demos as you learn to responsibly implement AI into your program.

Learning Objectives:

1) Use AI to analyze student qualitative and quantitative data in ways that align with the ASCA National Model®'s Define and Assess domains 2) Apply AI-generated insights to write program goals and inform Tier 1 and Tier 2 programming using ASCA's Lesson Plan or Achievement Gap templates 3) Develop time-saving systems using AI tools for tasks like stakeholder communication, newsletter writing and lesson development freeing up time to engage in direct student services 4) Evaluate ethical considerations for integrating AI into school counseling practice, with specific examples aligned with the ASCA Ethical Standards

Speakers:

- Brett Muskavage, *School Counselor, Meridian Middle School, Bellingham, WA*

School-Based Threat Assessment

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

School-based threat assessment is a rising effort in identifying, intervening and monitoring individuals who could pose a threat to themselves or others in the school community. With a rise in school shooting threats, school counselors need to understand and navigate their scope of practice while collaborating with education partners. Learn to apply current best practices and improve collaboration to enhance school safety. Focus on recent research and the ASCA position statement *The School Counselor and Threat Assessment*.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe the role of the school counselor in threat assessment 2) Apply best practices of threat assessment and collaboration 3) Analyze your school's implementation of threat assessment for strengths and areas for growth

Speakers:

- Dr. Elizabeth Schopfer, *Mental Health Assistance Counselor, Pine Hill School District, Pine Hill, NJ*

Launch College/Career Readiness via the SAT Suite

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The SAT Suite of Assessments plays a pivotal role in supporting students' journeys toward college and career readiness. Discover the value of the assessments as tools that provide insights into academic growth, readiness benchmarks and career pathways. Hear student and educator stories illustrating how the SAT Suite has unlocked opportunities for access, practice and preparation. Explore how families are engaging with College Board tools and resources to support each and every student. Examine the ways assessments can be reframed as empowering resources rather than hurdles, showcasing how the SAT Suite drives meaningful outcomes for schools, districts and states.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Discuss how the SAT Suite provides actionable data supporting both college and career readiness
- 2) Explore real-world student and educator stories highlighting the suite's impact
- 3) Explain how practice tools, score insights and readiness indicators help guide instruction and planning
- 4) Identify strategies to effectively engage families in the assessment journey
- 5) Brainstorm ideas for reframing assessments as value-added tools in their communities

Speakers:

- Lauri Benton, Ph.D., *Executive Director, Counselor Community Engagement, The College Board*

Am I RAMP Ready?

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

The purpose of RAMP® is to recognize those who are implementing the ASCA National Model® at an exemplary level. Get tools and advice to realistically evaluate your program for readiness and apply successfully.

Learning Objectives: 1) Summarize the RAMP® application process 2) Summarize the rubric requirements and scoring 3) Access and use tools to determine readiness

Speakers:

- Deirdra Williams, *Director of Programs & Advocacy, ASCA*

From Silos to Synergy

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Discover how school counselors can lead from “me” to “we” by leveraging five essential leadership competencies: interpersonal influence, systemic collaboration, resourceful problem solving, professional efficacy and advocacy. Begin with a self-assessment to identify your leadership strengths, and then explore how these competencies can build your leadership toolkit. Create a

collaborative action plan that drives meaningful, schoolwide change. Leave equipped with practical strategies, tools and a renewed vision for leading with confidence and purpose.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain the five leadership competencies: interpersonal influence, systemic collaboration, resourceful problem solving, professional efficacy and advocacy 2) Identify personal leadership strengths through a self-assessment 3) Build a personalized leadership toolkit to support collaborative leadership 4) Develop an action plan for implementing collaborative leadership practices within your school community

Speakers:

- Siobhan Murphy, *Middle School Counseling Specialist, Broward County Public Schools, Fort Lauderdale, FL*
- Sierra Goggins-Brown, *Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University*
- Dr. Ann Tilman, *Associate Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University*

Support After Crisis Events

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

With escalating rates of natural disasters, school violence and community stress, school counselors are increasingly exposed to school crisis events. School counselors play an essential role in crisis response, recovery and renewal in the wake of a crisis. Be prepared to support students, staff and faculty responding to a school crisis event; apply knowledge about the impacts of crisis, loss and trauma; and promote effective skills and strategies. Learn about cultural and individual considerations in crisis response. Address school counselor self-care and support during crisis response.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Differentiate crisis, loss and trauma events and their impact
- 2) Discuss crisis, loss and trauma, including individual, community and cultural considerations to support students and educators following a crisis
- 3) Incorporate professional self-care and support during crisis response, recovery and renewal
- 4) Identify resources to assist school in the aftermath of a crisis events

Speakers:

- Karen Rogers, *Program Director for Postdoctoral Training, National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at CHLA*
- Tiffany Duplessis-Barmore, *Clinical Psychology Post-doctoral Fellow , Children's Hospital Los Angeles*

Elementary School Counselors Affinity Group Meeting

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Join the Elementary School Counselors Affinity Group at an in-person meeting. Network with like-minded peers, connect with colleagues with shared challenges and discuss solutions and resources. The Elementary School Counselors Affinity Group is dedicated to creating a space for collaboration of resources and providing a network of support to help elementary school counselors with the unique challenges they face.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM CDT

Building Trades Reception

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Join representatives from North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) for an evening reception. Mix, mingle and chat with representatives from various building trades. Sponsored by NABTU.

Learning Objectives:

Sunday, July 12

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM CDT

College/University Faculty Reception

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM , Sunday, July 12

Overview:

Network with other college/university faculty at this reception. Sponsored by The College Board.

Learning Objectives:

Monday, July 13

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM CDT

Registration Open

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Monday, July 13

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM CDT

RAMP Office Hours

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Preparing to submit your RAMP application this fall? Need a better understanding of the fifth edition scoring rubric? Need help setting up your portal account? Stop by the RAMP Office Hours event to get your questions answered.

Learning Objectives:

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM CDT

Making Data Work, Fifth Edition

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors understand the importance of using data, but identifying the right achievement goal, developing plans to accomplish the goal, creating pre-/post-assessments, analyzing the collected data and using the results improve student success challenging. Learn how the fifth edition of "Making DATA Work," revised to align with and support fifth edition of the ASCA National Model® aims to simplify goal setting, data collection, analysis and results data usage. Learn about what is new in the latest edition, and acquire tools you can take back to your school and implement immediately.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain the Making Data Work process 2) Describe the "Making Data Work Fifth Edition" changes 3) Discuss the benefits of using the Making Data Work process through an example 4) Apply the steps of the Making Data Work process to their programs

Speakers:

- Anita Young, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University
- Carol Kaffenberger, Associate Professor Emerita, George Mason University

The Creative School Counselor Toolkit

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Expressive arts, including visual art, music, movement, drama and writing, offer powerful tools for supporting students' social/emotional growth. Explore how to apply developmental and counseling theories through creative modalities that enhance your school counseling program. Engage in guided, hands-on experiences and leave with a versatile toolkit of arts-based practices to increase student engagement, emotional wellness and self-expression.

Learning Objectives:

1. Integrate expressive art modalities into school counseling services to support diverse developmental needs
2. Implement creative techniques across individual, group and classroom settings to promote academic, career and social/emotional growth Identify how expressive arts and play-based approaches support emotional processing and problem-solving
3. Advocate for your school counseling program by communicating the benefits of expressive arts to education partners

Speakers:

- Bethany White, *School Counselor, Startown Elementary School, Newton, NC*
- Maddie Lapp, *School Counselor, Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, MO*

Data-Informed Prevention Groups

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Explore how school counselors can implement prevention-based small-group counseling as a proactive strategy to support students before needs escalate. Grounded in trauma-informed practices and responsive to social/emotional and behavioral needs, these groups serve students not flagged by screeners but showing early concerns through data and teacher input. Learn to use data sources to design groups that build coping skills, connection and resilience. Aligned with the ASCA National Model® and ASCA Student Standards, this approach promotes tiered supports that meet whole-child needs.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Identify students for prevention-based small-group counseling using multiple data sources (e.g., behavior, attendance, teacher input)
- 2) Design small-groups aligned with trauma-informed practices that proactively address emerging student needs
- 3) Align group counseling goals and activities with ASCA Student Standards
- 4) Evaluate group effectiveness using pre-/post-assessment data and feedback to inform continuous improvement

Speakers:

- Nicole McDonald, *School Counselor, Stingley Elementary School, Centerville, OH*

Interactive Tools for Regulation

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Join this hands-on session focused on calming, non-digital strategies you can use immediately. Discover the neuroscience behind predictable movement patterns and how they support emotional regulation, sustained attention and positive behavior. Practice simple, effective techniques, learn how to model them for students, and collaborate with colleagues to create a learning-ready environment. Leave with tools and a plan to strengthen self-regulation and focus across your school.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Identify the connection between predictable movement patterns and reduced emotional reactivity
- 2) Practice regulation strategies focusing on repetitive behaviors and movement
- 3) Develop an action plan to model and integrate strategies schoolwide

Speakers:

- Dr. Mary Tchouros, *School Counselor, Bell's Crossing Elementary School, Greenville, SC*

New School Counselor Induction Program

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Starting in a new district or transitioning to a new level can be exciting and overwhelming for school counselors. Explore the development of an induction program to support new, veteran and transitioning counselors with a structured, district-specific plan. Leave with a roadmap for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program aligned with ASCA National Model®. Learn strategies, procedures and mentorship models to guide school counselors through transitions with clarity and confidence.

Learning Objectives: 1) Design a successful onboarding process for new school counselors that helps build a supportive community and ensures school counseling programs are aligned with the ASCA National Model®

Speakers:

- Lauren Thomas, *School Counselor, Mountain Park Elementary School, Lilburn, GA*
- Sara Penland, *School Counselor, Gwin Oaks Elementary School, Lawrenceville, GA*
- Natalie Pugh, *School Counselor, R.D. Head Elementary School, Lilburn, GA*
- Heather Alvira, *Coordinator of Counseling, College and Career Services, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Suwanee, GA*

Align Site Supervision with the ASCA National Model®

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

While the ASCA National Model® guides K–12 school counseling, it may also support effective supervision of graduate students. Focus on practical strategies for site supervisors to intentionally develop future school counselors while embodying ASCA Professional Standards & Competencies.

Aligned with the four sections of the ASCA National Model® – Define, Manage, Deliver and Assess – walk through developmentally appropriate supervision practices and meaningful intern involvement in tiered services and collaboration. Leave with tools to mentor interns and co-create a reflective, professional growth experience.

Learning Objectives: 1) Align site supervision practices with the ASCA National Model® 2) Discuss ways to support intern growth through ethical, professional and developmentally appropriate strategies 3) Use ASCA templates and data-informed tools to guide intern activities

Speakers:

- Eva Gibson, *Associate Professor, Austin Peay State University*
- Kim Rollins, *Middle Lead School Counselor, Clarksville-Montgomery County School System, Clarksville, TN*

Own Your Power

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors are essential, and it's time to own that. Learn practical self-advocacy tools and strategies to clearly define and communicate your role. Discover how to set and maintain boundaries around non-school-counseling duties to protect your time, energy and effectiveness. Gain the confidence to use your voice to advocate for your professional responsibilities and prevent burnout. Walk away with actionable steps to reclaim your role and empower your practice.

Learning Objectives:

1) Recognize and establish healthy personal and professional boundaries to maintain ethical practice and wellness 2) Apply effective self-advocacy strategies to navigate systemic challenges and advocate for the school counseling program 3) Exude leadership and confidence in owning one's professional power by building confidence in saying "no" professionally 4) Develop training practices that build skills in boundary-setting, self-advocacy and ethical leadership

Speakers:

- Kimberly Brown, *School Counselor, Wade Hampton High School, Greenville, SC*
- Dr. Brianna Patterson, *School Counselor, Duval County Public Schools, Jacksonville, FL*
- Jennifer Perry, *Assistant Professor, Norfolk State University*

From Math Anxiety to Achievement

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Math anxiety can limit student potential and weaken academic confidence. Learn to implement a multitiered instructional program with Tier 1 prevention lessons, Tier 2 small-group supports and Tier 3 referrals to external resources. Explore the Abbreviated Math Anxiety Scale and other tools to track progress and guide responsive services. Leave with sample lesson topics, intervention ideas and resources such as the ASCA Lesson Plan Template and Small-Group Plan and Data Report Template to strengthen math confidence and improve performance for each and every

student.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain how math anxiety affects student confidence and academic performance 2) Identify Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions to decrease math anxiety and improve academic confidence 3) Develop a multi-descriptor and measurable achievement gap goal

Speakers:

- Dawn Mann, *Counselor on Special Assignment, Val Verde Unified School District, Perris, CA*
- Beth Ruff, *School Counselor, Powder Springs Elementary School, Powder Springs, GA*

10 Ways to Renew Student Engagement

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Motivation is frequently driven by feelings. This is true for students as well as school counselors. Explore intrinsic vs extrinsic motivation and 13 ways to achieve a student-motivating office. Discover four ways to learn the names of your entire caseload and 14 authentic conversation starters. Examine motivation quizzes to help all students find their passion and purpose, and learn seven ways to motivate yourself;. Address using laughter to improve everyone's life; change a schedule, change a life. Realize how one look is worth 1,000 words.

Learning Objectives:

1) Use your office to motivate students to meaningfully engage 2) Learn all of your students' names 3) Use 14 authentic conversation starters with students 4) Use interest inventories for elementary, middle and high school students to help them find their passion and purpose for postsecondary destinations

Speakers:

- Stephen Polk, *Director of Counseling and Social Work Services, Pflugerville Independent School District, Pflugerville, TX*

Support Military-Connected Students

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Military-connected students face challenges such as frequent relocations, deployments and adjusting to new schools. Explore strategies to better support this population. Learn to use the Military Student Identifier to inform programming, apply MTSS best practices and strengthen coordinated systems of support with school-based and community mental health providers. Address practical tools such as student-led peer programs, bullying prevention and child abuse/neglect awareness. Learn effective welcome and exit transition supports as best practices for military-connected and other highly mobile students.

Learning Objectives:

1) Discuss how to apply ASCA Student Standards to support military-connected students 2) Learn how to use the Military Student Identifier to collect data and inform programming 3) Strengthen school-based mental health supports in partnership with military installation and community mental- and behavioral-health providers 4) Explain best practices for transition programs, safe schools and child protection

Speakers:

- Sue Lopez, *Learning and Development Manager*
- Kathryn Northam-Hall, *School Counselor, Netzaberg Elementary School, Bavaria, Germany*
- Sara Jane Arnette, *Military Family Support Consultant, South Carolina State Coordinator, Military Child Education Coalition*

Empower Reluctant Data Users

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

If data isn't your love language, or you support school counselors who get queasy at the mention of data, this is the session for you. Learn simple ways to begin using access, life-readiness and academic success data, and then build on those skills to use data in deeper, more impactful ways. Address how using data helps school counselors tell their stories and demonstrate how they make a difference for students.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify your own data identity and how that affects your use of data 2) Explain access, life-readiness and academic success data and how each can tell a story 3) Create a plan to integrate data into your school counseling practice using basic tools

Speakers:

- Aimee Hospodarsky, *School Counselor Consultant, Grant Wood Area Education Agency, Cedar Rapids, IA*
- Sheryl Bass, *Adjunct Instructor, University of Iowa*

Advancing Native American Student Success

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Explore the unique considerations and challenges in identifying and supporting Native American students within school data systems. Using the ASCA Achievement Gap Plan Template, learn to identify contributing factors affecting Native American student success and how school counselors use data to drive equity-focused interventions. Understand how to identify key school and community partners and implement culturally responsive collaboration strategies that build trust and foster meaningful engagement. Discover real-world examples and lessons learned from a districtwide K–12 initiative to see how intentional, data-informed practices can enhance academic and social/emotional outcomes for Native American students.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss the considerations and unique challenges when disaggregating data and identifying Native American students in their school population 2) Use ASCA's Achievement Gap Plan Template to identify contributing factors affecting Native American student success 3) Identify key school and community partners and address collaboration strategies to enhance trust and deliver culturally responsive direct and indirect student services 4) See

examples and key lessons learned about a districtwide K-12 emphasis on Native American academic and school success through the lens of ASCA's Achievement Gap Plan Template

Speakers:

- Ben Herman, *Lead Elementary Counselor, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN*
- Juli Montgomery-Riess, *Lead Middle School Counselor, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN*
- John Eschenbacher, *Lead High School Counselor, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN*
- Regan Kluver, *Director of American Indian Education, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN*

AI for School Counselors

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors are juggling impossible ratios, skyrocketing mental health needs and endless duties that steal time from their work with students. What if you could take some of that time back? Artificial intelligence isn't about replacing you; it's about empowering you. See how AI can streamline the work you have to do, so you can focus on the work you want to do: counseling kids. Through practical, school-counselor-ready tools framed by the ASCA National Model®, leave with bold strategies to reclaim time, amplify your voice and maximize your impact.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify key challenges school counselors face today and explain how AI can address them 2) Experience practical AI tools that streamline school counseling tasks and align with the ASCA National Model® 3) Analyze how AI can enhance program delivery through lesson planning, data use and communication 4) Apply at least one AI-powered strategy to increase efficiency, advocacy or student engagement

Speakers:

- Hanna Kemble, *Dean of Elementary Counseling, Indian Hills Elementary School/USD 437, Topeka, KS*

Systems & Data Driving Alternative Education

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Explore how Park West High School transformed its alternative education program through the Recognized ASCA Model Program® (RAMP®). Learn how the school shifted from reactive to proactive practices by leveraging data, embedding intentional systems and sustaining comprehensive school counseling initiatives. Key topics include academic achievement, discipline, attendance, college and career readiness and the critical role of student and family voice in creating equitable, high-performing learning environments. Leave with practical strategies for implementing systemic change and fostering student success in alternative education settings.

Learning Objectives: 1) Apply insights and best practices to develop or enhance systemic support in your school or district 2) Identify and evaluate systems and school counseling initiatives that support sustainable student success and improved academic outcomes 3) Explain how to shift from reactive to proactive alternative education practices using the RAMP® framework

Speakers:

- Maria Rojas, *School Counselor, Park West High School, Pomona, CA*
- Dayna McCall, *Principal, Park West High School, Pomona, CA*

ASCA National Model® & MTSS Alignment

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Learn how to align your current ASCA National Model® work to the individual tiers of the MTSS model. Discover a springboard for developing and documenting a variety of supports for all students. Walk away with practical tools for interventions and implementation.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe how the fifth edition of the ASCA National Model® aligns with MTSS 2) Explain how components of the ASCA National Model® fall into each tier of the MTSS structure 3) Complete your own MTSS triangle aligning your work with the ASCA National Model®

Speakers:

- Len Egan, *ASCA Certified Trainer, Director of Student Services, West Chicago Community High School, West Chicago, IL*
- Dawn Erickson, *ASCA Certified Trainer, Division Head for Counseling, West Chicago Community High School, West Chicago, IL*

Close Achievement Gaps for Multilingual Learner Students

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Learn simple strategies you can use in your lesson planning that supports each and every student, including multilingual learners. As school counselors, we advocate for all students. We break down barriers to achieve learning and support students and staff. There is an added challenge in advocacy when working with students who do not have English as their main language. Through the collaboration with the ESL lead teacher in schools, school counselors can be better equipped to support each and every student.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss challenges multilingual learner students face in the American public school system 2) Brainstorm ways to collaborate with ESL teachers/team to better support multilingual learner students in your school or district

Speakers:

- Tierney Langdon, *School Counselor, Bay Creek Middle School, Grayson, GA*
- Syidah Ehui, *ESOL Instructor, Bay Creek Middle School, Grayson GA*

Middle School Counselors Affinity Group Meeting

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Join the inaugural meeting of the Middle School Counselors Affinity Group. This is a welcoming space designed for school counselors working in middle school settings to come together, build connections and strengthen community. Share insights, practical strategies and solutions that support student success and enhance professional practice, particularly during the unique and impactful middle school years. Whether you are looking to connect with colleagues, learn from others' experiences or contribute your own perspective, join this emerging community. Your voice and participation will help shape the future of this Affinity Group.

Learning Objectives:

Monday, July 13

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM CDT

Exhibit Hall Open

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Monday, July 13

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CDT

General Session: eXperiencED

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Navigating Students Beyond One-Size-Fits-All Career Paths

There are many routes to success, yet students are feeling increasing pressure to choose the one "right" path. How can school counselors help students navigate that pressure and explore paths that are the best fit for them? Join Mike Marriner, the co-founder of Roadtrip Nation's award-winning, student-led documentary series and nonprofit – featuring 25 years of real-world career stories – and school counselor Gabby Edmonds for a panel discussion with two young people who participated in Roadtrip Nation's latest public television series. Together, this panel will share how exposure to diverse, nonlinear career journeys helps students expand their sense of possibility, build confidence and take ownership of their paths.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Help students move beyond "one right path" thinking
- 2) Facilitate more open-ended career exploration conversations
- 3) Build student confidence in navigating an unclear or evolving future of work

Monday, July 13

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM CDT

Lunch in Exhibit Hall

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Monday, July 13

1:00 PM - 1:20 PM CDT

Write Pre-/Post-Assessments

1:00 PM - 1:20 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

We all know it's ideal to give pre-/post-assessments to determine what students have gained from our lessons and programs. However, writing pre-/post-assessment questions can be challenging. Learn to use the ASCA Student Standards: Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success to develop your questions and identify best practices when creating pre-/post-assessments.

Learning Objectives:

1) Discuss best practices for writing pre-/post-assessments, including how many, the importance of using the Likert scale and alignment with learning objectives

Speakers:

- OTasha Morgan
- Meredith Draughn, *Student Support Counseling Lead, Alamance-Burlington School System, Burlington, NC*

Crisis Conversations with Younger Students

1:00 PM - 1:20 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

When a crisis strikes, school counselors are often the first to provide comfort and stability for students. Yet most crisis response resources are geared toward high school populations, leaving school counselors uncertain about how to talk with younger students in developmentally appropriate ways. Hear practical scripts, strategies and activities for navigating tough conversations with elementary and middle school students during and after a crisis. Leave with ready-to-use tools to help students feel safe, supported and understood in their most vulnerable moments.

Learning Objectives: 1) Apply age-appropriate scripts and conversation strategies when supporting younger students

Speakers:

- Lindsay Harman, *Assistant Professor, University of Denver*

Empower Student Leaders for Mental Health & Equity

1:00 PM - 1:20 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Explore how to cultivate student leadership programs that prioritize mental health and belonging. School counselors play a vital role in guiding students to design peer-led wellness initiatives and advocacy campaigns that reduce stigma, amplify underrepresented voices and foster a culture of belonging. Hear how these strategies align with the ASCA National Model®, ensuring programs are measurable, sustainable and grounded in best practices. By centering student voice, schools can create leadership programs that drive meaningful and lasting cultural change.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the essential components of a student leadership program focused on mental health and equity 2) Implement strategies to recruit, train and support diverse student leaders 3) Facilitate peer-led initiatives that reduce stigma and promote a culture of belonging 4) Align student leadership programs with the ASCA National Model® for measurable, sustainable impact

Speakers:

- Tricia Lowe, *Lead Elementary Counselor, Temple Independent School District, Temple, TX*
- Derek Francis, *Culturally Responsive Instructional Lead, Minnesota Department of Education/Compass*

ASCA Suicide Information-Gathering Tool 2.0: Key Updates

1:00 PM - 1:20 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

ASCA has revised the Suicide Information-Gathering Tool to better support school counselors in responding ethically, legally and effectively to students experiencing suicidal thoughts and/or behavior. Learn about the tool's key updates designed to strengthen practical application in school settings and guide appropriate intervention and postvention responses.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify key updates to the ASCA Suicide Information-Gathering Tool and explain how the revisions support ethical, legal and effective responses to students experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors
2. Apply the updated tool to guide information gathering, intervention and postvention decision-making in school counseling settings

Speakers:

- Sara Carpenter, *School Counselor, Ladue Schools, St. Louis, MO*

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CDT

Achievement Data at the Elementary Level

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

The elementary school years set the foundation for developing the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for children to become healthy, competent and confident learners.” Discover how elementary school counselors can deepen their focus on achievement for each and every student.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify various types of achievement data at the elementary level
2. Utilize contributing-factors data (attendance and/or discipline) to create impactful plans
3. Create plans to identify and address prioritized student achievement gaps and needs at the elementary level

Speakers:

- Susan Arvidson, *ASCA Certified Trainer, Lead RAMP Reviewer*
- Vanessa Barnes, *Senior Administrator for Secondary Counseling, Wake County Public School System, Cary N.C.*

Data Use in Secondary Programs

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Using the ASCA National Model® as a guide, evaluate effective use of achievement data in a secondary school counseling program. Explore data use that moves from a baseline program implementation approach, to program needs and then to program assessment, identifying alignment with administration's goals. Address the data that comes with small and large group, as well as individual, counseling in a secondary setting.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Use data to make an impact
- 2) Advocate for your program through building goals
- 3) Tie data to program strengths and refinement

Speakers:

- Geoff Heckman, *School Counselor, Platte County High School, Platte City, MO*

School Counseling PLCs

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Are you ready to move your school counseling team from compliance to collaboration? Discover a blueprint for building high-impact professional learning communities (PLCs) that center student data, school counselor voice and success for each and every student. Learn to implement structured, sustainable PLCs aligned with the ASCA National Model® while meeting the unique needs of diverse school environments. Leave with tools, templates and inspiration to transform your department into a unified, data-informed team with purpose.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain the purpose and structure of a school counseling PLC that promotes collaboration, accountability and success for each and every student 2) Design a yearlong PLC calendar aligned with academic, SEL and postsecondary counseling goals using thematic planning and data cycles 3) Apply data-informed protocols and tools to facilitate effective team conversations focused on interventions, trends and closing achievement gaps 4) Implement systems for documentation, team roles and follow-through to ensure PLCs are sustainable, impactful and aligned with the ASCA National Model®

Speakers:

- Melanie McColl-Batie, *Director of School Counseling, Roosevelt High School, Washington, DC*

The S-ELephant in the Room

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors are key leaders in social/emotional learning, but their role can often become siloed, muddled and mischaracterized. Clarify the school counselors' role in whole-school SEL initiatives, examine common pitfalls in schoolwide SEL implementation that affect systemic change outcomes and learn strategies to advocate for a balanced, collaborative approach that keeps the focus on student well-being and success.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain how the ASCA National Model® aligns with and complements other SEL frameworks 2) Identify common challenges school counselors face in schoolwide SEL implementation, including role confusion and the ways SEL can be misinterpreted 3) Strategize ways to advocate for and lead a balanced and collaborative SEL approach that keeps the focus on student development and well-being

Speakers:

- Kirsten Perry, *School Counselor, Singapore American School*
- Melissa Ockerman, *Professor, DePaul University*

College Access for Rural Youth

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Rural students often embody distinct cultural assets and face unique barriers to college access,

including limited exposure to extracurricular activities, career exploration opportunities, postsecondary options and details on about navigating the postsecondary process. Focusing on culturally responsive strategies to expand college access for rural students, explore rural student case studies and interventions, as well as partnerships with families, community and higher education partners. Walk away with tools and resources to strengthen your delivery of college access services in rural settings.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss cultural strengths and systemic barriers affecting college access for rural students 2) Utilize ASCA National Model® tools and templates to plan culturally responsive services for increasing college access for rural students 3) Identify responsive strategies that engage families and key education partners in college access for rural youth 4) Access resources specific to rural students, such as the STARS College Network

Speakers:

- Dr. LeAnn Wills, *Assistant Professor, Austin Peay State University*
- Xi Zhang, *High School Counselor, STEM Prep Academy High School, Nashville, TN*

Launch a School Counselor Induction Program

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

New and experienced school counselors often enter their roles with passion, yet without structured support. Learn how one region launched a school counselor induction program (SCIP), modeled after teacher induction, to provide sustained mentoring, coaching and collaborative learning. Grounded in the ASCA National Model® and aligned with ASCA Professional Standards & Competencies, SCIP equips school counselors to translate theory into practice. Explore key components – onboarding, mentor roles, reflection, administrator engagement and outcome tracking – and gain tools to elevate school counselor development and program sustainability.

Learning Objectives: 1) Describe the structure and purpose of a school counselor induction program 2) Identify key roles and responsibilities within the induction framework, including mentor/mentee collaboration, administrator engagement and data-informed reflection 3) Analyze how induction structures support professional growth using the ASCA Professional Standards & Competencies 4) Discuss strategies and tools you can adapt to your school to launch or enhance a school counselor support system focused on continuous improvement and strong administrator/school counselor partnerships

Speakers:

- Denise Cabanilla, *Senior Director, Higher Education and Learning, Imperial County Office of Education, El Centro, CA*
- Rosa Nava, *Coordinator of Pupil Services, Imperial County Office of Education, El Centro, CA*

Keep Calm with Calming Corners

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

In today's busy schools, students need simple, accessible ways to manage stress and emotions. Walk through creating digital calming corners and coping kits using low-prep tools that support mindfulness, regulation and emotional check-ins. Discover how to design virtual spaces for classrooms, school counseling offices or online platforms that promote reflection and independence. Learn to incorporate breathing exercises, soothing visuals, grounding techniques and personalized student voice. Whether you're helping individuals or leading a schoolwide SEL initiative, leave with ready-to-use strategies and customizable templates that foster emotional wellness and a responsive, supportive school climate for each and every student. Be sure to bring your device to practice what you learn!

Learning Objectives:

1) Design and implement digital calming corners and coping kits that foster mindfulness, regulation and emotional check-ins 2) Integrate simple, low-prep tools into classrooms, school counseling offices or virtual platforms to support student well-being 3) Apply techniques such as breathing exercises, visuals and grounding strategies to help students pause, reflect and reset independently 4) Adapt calming resources to amplify student voice while building a supportive, responsive school climate

Speakers:

- Dyann Wilson, *School Counselor, Brabham Middle School, Willis, TX*
- Amy Storer, *Innovative Learning Specialist, Montgomery ISD, Montgomery, TX*

Creative Interventions to Support Grieving Students

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Monday, July 13

Overview:

By the age of 18, approximately one in 12 children will experience the death of a family member. Because of this, school counselors are likely to work with grieving students, and it is their ethical responsibility to provide brief, culturally responsive support during times of crisis and transition. Walk away with knowledge, interventions and resources to help grieving students develop effective coping skills. Explore developmentally appropriate concepts of death and common reactions across age groups. Examine the role of creative interventions for bereaved students to use in individual and small-group counseling, and actively engage in a variety of creative interventions to use with grieving students.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain the school counselor's role and ethical responsibility in supporting grieving students 2) Identify how children and adolescents understand death at different developmental stages; recognize common grief reactions; and respond appropriately to students' emotions, questions and behaviors 3) Describe how creative interventions can help students process grief and develop healthy coping skills 4) Choose developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive interventions to use in individual and small-group counseling, aligned with the ASCA National Model®

Speakers:

- Anita Pool, *Assistant Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette*
- Deb Hill, *School Counselor, Lafayette Renaissance Charter Academy/The Authenticity Center, Lafayette, LA*

Successful Small Groups

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Do you struggle with implementing and sustaining small groups? School counselors can foster student success within MTSS Tier 2 by implementing direct services through proactive, targeted small groups. Learn a variety of ways to identify students for small-groups using data-informed decision making for student achievement and life-readiness. Access evidence-based resources connected to the ASCA Student Standards. Learn to monitor progress efficiently, ensuring education partner feedback and data is collected and analyzed for academic success. Address ways to gain education partner buy-in, and help students receiving wraparound services through indirect services.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe how to analyze and use academic achievement and life-readiness data to identify students for MTSS Tier 2 services 2) Match small-group instructional topics based on the ASCA Student Standards to student needs 3) Discuss how to monitor progress efficiently to show student growth within small groups 4) Identify ways to include education partner input to ensure student needs are truly met

Speakers:

- Heather Bushelman, *District MTSS Coordinator, Boone County Schools, Boone, KY*

Boost Student Attendance

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Explore contributing factors leading to attendance challenges by age group and learn prevention and intervention strategies tailored to each level. Using ASCA National Model® templates, implement data-informed initiatives and resources to combat absenteeism in elementary and middle school. Discover ways to collaborate with families, teachers and administrators, and walk away with practical tools for data tracking and early-warning systems. Leave equipped and ready-to-implement effective attendance improvement strategies.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify contributing factors of attendance challenges unique to elementary and middle school students
2) Design and implement prevention and intervention strategies
3) Utilize ASCA National Model® templates, including the achievement gap plan and ASCA Student Standards delivery plan, to develop data-informed attendance initiatives
4) Collaborate with families, teachers and administrators, and use data tracking and early-warning systems to support student attendance improvement

Speakers:

- Brandon Castro, *School Counselor, Rivera Elementary School, Merced, CA*

- Diego Castro, *School Counselor, Hoover Middle School, Merced, CA*

RAMP® Reviewers Ins and Outs

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

If you've implemented the ASCA National Model® and have a strong process for collecting data, learn how you can become a RAMP® reviewer who scores and provides feedback on RAMP® applications. Explore using your ASCA National Model® knowledge and skills to further the profession and hone your own program.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify the duties and responsibilities of RAMP® reviewers 2) Use the rubric to provide meaningful feedback 3) Discuss the components of the ASCA National Model® essential to RAMP applications 4) Discuss the effective use of RAMP® narratives

Speakers:

- Lauren Crispino, *ASCA Certified Trainer & Education Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax, Va.*
- Dawn Erickson, *ASCA Certified Trainer, Division Head for Counseling, West Chicago Community High School, West Chicago, IL*

Build Safer, Stronger Schools

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Equip yourself with trauma-informed strategies and self-care practices to support student well-being and achievement. Explore the impact of trauma on the brain, practical approaches for schools and communities, and the role of trusted adults as protective factors, all while supporting ASCA Student Standard B-SS 2 (Positive, respectful and supportive relationships with students who are similar to and different from them).

Learning Objectives:

1) Use ASCA National Model® tools and templates to support the success of each and every student 2) Recognize the connection between self-care and the success of each and every student 3) Discuss different types of traumas, how trauma affects the brain and how to become a trauma-informed school and community

Speakers:

- Stephanie Cinque, *Senior Director, Resiliency, Sandy Hook Promise*

School Counseling Faculty Roundtable Discussions

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counseling college/university faculty, adjunct professors and doctoral students are invited to participate in faculty-facilitated roundtable discussions about current issues in school counselor preparation, including Practice to Preparation, Field Experience and Supervision, Equity and Systemic Change, Research Advances, and Pipeline and Recruitment.

Learning Objectives:

Monday, July 13

1:40 PM - 2:00 PM CDT

Triage Student Referrals

1:40 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Who doesn't want their job to feel a little easier, while also reaching more students? Tired of all those notes under your door or worried you may miss something important when students request to see you? Simplifying your work with easy-to-use forms. Access a triage system for student referrals and requests so you can prioritize student needs and respond quicker with individual counseling. Discover ways to teach students coping skills while they wait to see you. Walk away with resources to use immediately to make your job easier and help more students.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss how a triage system for student referrals and requests helps you better manage your role and support more students

Speakers:

- Angela Avery, *School Counselor, Sanford Middle School, Sanford, ME*

School Counselor Advisory Councils

1:40 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

An advisory council is a representative group of education partners selected to review and advise on the school counseling program. It's explicitly focused on the school counseling program and gives a voice to education partners through dialog and critique. Learn what advisory councils can do for your program, how to establish one and who should be included.

Learning Objectives:

1) List ways an advisory council can assist you as a school counselor 2) Identify who should be included in an advisory council 3) Discuss the implementation steps for creating an advisory council

Speakers:

- Judy Peltó, *ASCA Certified Trainer & School Counselor, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV*

School Counseling Calendars

1:40 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors develop, publish and share calendars of school counseling program activities. Calendars inform families, teachers, administrators and students about these activities so they can join when appropriate. Learn best practices for creating your calendars.

Learning Objectives:

1) Discuss the importance of sharing annual and weekly calendars with families and other education partners 2) Identify the differences in annual and weekly calendars 3) Discuss what to include in each calendar

Speakers:

- Eva Gibson, *Associate Professor, Austin Peay State University*

The Power of Partnership

1:40 PM - 2:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Student well-being thrives when schools and communities work hand in hand. Hear how school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses and community mental health providers can come together to provide comprehensive, sustainable supports for each and every student. Explore the essential role of partnerships in strengthening MTSS; improving access to care; and addressing barriers such as misaligned priorities, communication gaps and staff burnout. Walk away with actionable tools for building and sustaining collaborations that not only reduce duplication of services but also ensure each and every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify at least three strategies for building and sustaining effective school–community mental health partnerships that enhance student well-being within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework.

Speakers:

- Shannon Hudson-Odoi, *Mental Health Coordinator, Prince George's County Public Schools, Oxon Hill, MD*

Monday, July 13

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM CDT

ASCA-Certified School Counselor Office Hours

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Are you working on your ASCA-Certified School Counselor® (ACSC®) application and have questions? Attend the office hours to get answers, and learn from others' questions as well. ACSC® reviewers are available to offer immediate assistance.

Learning Objectives:

Monday, July 13

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM CDT

Find What the Numbers Miss

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Are you looking at the data but still missing the point? Learn to conduct comprehensive data analysis that goes beyond surface metrics to uncover patterns, identify contributing factors and drive targeted student interventions. Using real-life transcript case studies and the ASCA Student Standards, feel empowered to use data to design effective interventions. Leave with practical tools to identify what's missing in student stories – and how to close achievement gaps using the ASCA National Model®.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Conduct a multilayered data analysis using achievement and contributing-factors data to uncover underlying barriers to student achievement
- 2) Apply data analysis techniques aligned with the ASCA National Model® to inform targeted, tiered interventions
- 3) Integrate ASCA Student Standards to align goals and strategies with identified needs
- 4) Use a customizable data reflection template to inform program goals, identify missing data points and evaluate learner outcomes

Speakers:

- Summer Martin, *Executive Director, Counseling & Social Services, Richardson Independent School District, Richardson, TX*
- Shannon Jenkins, *Mental Health Coordinator, Thompson School District, Loveland, CO*

Navigate NCAA Eligibility Center Changes

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

In recent months, the NCAA has undergone significant change that will affect all areas of collegiate athletics. Discuss how those changes may affect incoming student-athletes and the ways high school counselors can support students with a desire to participate in Division I, II and III NCAA athletics.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain the changes affecting NCAA initial-eligibility and future NCAA student-athletes 2) Identify ways high school counselors can support student-athletes as they transition to collegiate athletics 3) Discuss best practices when advising student-athletes for NCAA initial-eligibility purposes

Speakers:

- Kaylen Overway, *Assistant Director, High School Review, NCAA Eligibility Center*
- Amy Routt, *Associate Director, High School Review, NCAA Eligibility Center*

Inclusive Practices That Work

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Whether you're delivering Tier 1 lessons in classrooms, facilitating Tier 2 small groups or engaging in one-on-one counseling sessions, the ability to manage behavior, maintain engagement and foster connection is essential. Focus on practical, trauma-informed strategies to help you confidently lead and connect with students across multiple settings. Learn to set clear expectations, build rapport, respond to dysregulation and maintain inclusive environments that support success for each and every student. Gain research-informed tips and strategies rooted in compassion and connection.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe the foundational principles of classroom management through a trauma-informed and culturally responsive lens, particularly when working with diverse and neurodivergent student populations 2) Brainstorm ways to set clear expectations and respond to common behavioral challenges in both Tier 1 classroom lessons and Tier 2 small-group settings 3) Implement practical tools and techniques for increasing student engagement, minimizing disruptions and creating psychologically safe learning environments 4) Apply modeled strategies and real-time examples to enhance your presence, communication and connection when delivering social/emotional content in general and special education classrooms

Speakers:

- Brittany Glover, *Assistant Professor, San Diego State University*
- Brian Wesley Harrington, *Doctoral Student, University of Mississippi*

Enhance Student Achievement Outcomes

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors play a critical role in driving student achievement. Explore how you can identify school counseling data priorities aligned with your school's annual plan for improvement, and ensure cohesion between the school counselor's achievement gap plan and the school's goal. Gain a clear understanding of the school counselor's role in influencing assessment outcomes, and learn to design and implement a collaborative, data-informed Tier 2 intervention strategy that supports students in attaining ASCA Student Standard B-SMS 6 (Ability to identify and overcome barriers). Discover actionable practices, interdepartmental collaboration models and strategies for tracking impact on assessment performance.

Learning Objectives:

1) Clarify a school counselor's role in supporting statewide assessment outcomes 2) Increase alignment between school counseling programs and sitewide priorities to ensure cohesion between achievement gap plan and the school's overall improvement goals 3) Use a collaborative approach to implement a Tier 2 strategy to improve student outcomes on statewide assessments

Speakers:

- Sarah Wicochea, *School Counselor, Pomona Unified School District, Pomona, CA*
- Jennifer Quezada, Ed.D., *Literacy Coach, Pomona Unified School District, Pomona, CA*

Restorative Mentorship Circles

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Learn to implement restorative mentorship circles to foster belonging, strengthen school/community connections and empower student voices. Discover ways to integrate restorative practices and mentorship into your school counseling program, aligning with the ASCA National Model® to promote fairness, cultural responsiveness and positive school climate. Explore strategies to create consistent safe spaces for dialogue and partner with community mentors, including school resource officers. Focus on developing students' social/emotional and conflict resolution skills. Walk away with a ready-to-use small-group plan and data collection strategies to measure impact on student engagement, relationships and school connectedness.

Learning Objectives: 1) Apply the ASCA Small-Group Plan and Data Report Template to design and implement restorative mentorship circles fostering student belonging, voice and collaboration with trusted adults, including school resource officers 2) Facilitate structured circle discussions that build social/emotional competencies, conflict resolution skills and positive adult/youth relationships with diverse community mentors 3) Develop sustainable partnerships with school-based law enforcement and community mentors to strengthen school safety, mutual respect and a supportive learning environment

Speakers:

- Sharon Winston, *School Counselor, Albert Einstein High School, Kensington, MD*
- James Harris, *School Counselor, Charles County Public Schools, La Plata, MD*

Study-Smart Small Group

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Academic challenges often contribute to stress, low self-confidence and disengagement among students. School counselors play a critical role in supporting student achievement. Learn about Study Smart, a small group designed to equip students with essential skills such as organization, goal setting, test-taking techniques and motivation. Focus on ways to identify students in need of small-group support, and structure engaging sessions. Review pre-/post-assessment data collection methods to demonstrate the group's impact on achievement, and leave with a complete framework for implementing the Study Smart small group, including a complete set of lesson plans.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify the purpose and structure of the Study Smart small-group counseling curriculum 2) Implement engaging, developmentally appropriate activities to teach students effective study and organizational skills 3) Deliver the Study Smart small-group supporting student academic achievement 4) Collect and use data to evaluate student progress and demonstrate the impact of small-group interventions on academic success

Speakers:

- Barbara Truluck, *School Counseling Consultant, Cobb County School District, Marietta, GA*

Collaborative Strategies for Schoolwide SEL

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors are positioned to be a leader in the delivery of targeted Tier 1 social/emotional learning content; however, you don't have to do it alone. Learn how a school counselor, a science teacher and a principal worked together with students, administration, teachers and the community to create a unified approach to SEL where every voice matters. Discover ways to leverage those education partner relationships in a variety of ways, from creating engaging classroom SEL lessons to leading student teams to provide qualitative feedback on school climate and much more.

Learning Objectives: 1) Collaborate more effectively with relevant education partners to implement SEL strategies and interventions 2) Create engaging SEL opportunities, such as classroom lessons and SEL student teams, that utilize data to address student needs 3) Determine the first steps for implementing or enhancing schoolwide SEL practices in your building

Speakers:

- Wilson Harvey, *School Counselor, Justice High School, Falls Church, VA*
- Maggie Futato, *Biology and Anatomy/Physiology Teacher, Justice High School, Falls Church, VA*
- Sean Rolon, *Principal, Justice High School, Falls Church, Virginia*

Tools to Support Self-Harming Students

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Nonsuicidal self-injury among adolescents affects approximately 20%-30% of teens, with rates particularly high during middle and high school years. Most students who self-harm are not suicidal but are using these behaviors to cope with difficult emotions, stress or trauma. Focus on practical tools and approaches to support adolescents who engage in self-harm behaviors. Learn to

recognize warning signs, engage in supportive conversations with students and implement effective strategies within the school setting.

Learning Objectives: 1) Recognize warning signs and have initial conversations with students about nonsuicidal self-injury 2) Identify at least three practical intervention approaches for nonsuicidal self-injury that work well in school counseling settings 3) Educate families, teachers and school staff about nonsuicidal self-injury through clear, helpful information and guidance 4) Connect students with appropriate resources and ongoing support

Speakers:

- Daya Patton, *Assistant Professor , SUNY Oneonta*

Build Big Dreams

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Engage young learners in meaningful career exploration through use of relevant literature. Understand how elementary school counselors can integrate career-based literature into career lessons aligned with ASCA Student Standards. Leave with ready-to-use lesson plans, activities and strategies to inspire curiosity, resilience and confidence in students as they imagine future careers.

Learning Objectives:

1) Connect texts to the ASCA Student Standards for career exploration 2) Implement engaging, developmentally appropriate career lessons using literature as the foundation 3) Identify best data sources to use to collect relevant career data for elementary students

Speakers:

- Angela Johnson, *School Counselor, Red Clay Consolidated School District, Wilmington, DE*

Minute Meetings to Shape Interventions

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Minute meetings are often used as quick SEL snapshots, but what if they could do more? Hear how to use multiple rounds of minute meetings, not just for connection but to assess shifts in school culture, student needs and social/emotional climate. By identifying patterns, such as dips during the winter months, learn to develop data-informed strategies that proactively shift student outcomes. Hear how to design check-in questions that yield actionable insights, track and interpret trends across the year and implement tiered supports based on real-time data. Leave with practical resources and a clear framework, using minute meeting data to move from reactive support to strategic interventions.

Learning Objectives: 1) Design minute meeting questions that generate actionable social/emotional and school culture data 2) Analyze trends across multiple rounds of student check-ins to identify shifts in schoolwide needs 3) Develop targeted, tiered interventions in response to recurring student concerns, such as seasonal drops 4) Implement a replicable framework for using minute meetings as both a preventive tool and a method to improve success for each and every student

Speakers:

- Laura Betz Burch, *School Counselor, Saddlebrook Elementary School, Omaha, NE*

ASCA National Model Sustainability

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Implementing the ASCA National Model® is just the beginning – sustaining it is where the real impact happens. When fully embedded, the ASCA National Model® becomes part of a school's culture, delivering lasting benefits for students, school counselors and the entire school system. Hear five key pillars of sustainability to help school counseling programs maintain momentum and avoid burnout. Walk away with practical systems and strategies to make the work stick year after year.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify five sustainability pillars and explore systems and structures that support long-term ASCA National Model® implementation 2) Select and commit to one actionable sustainability practice to implement in your school counseling program during the upcoming year

Speakers:

- Steve Schneider, *ASCA Certified Trainer*
- Len Egan, *ASCA Certified Trainer, Director of Student Services, West Chicago Community High School, West Chicago, IL*
- Kinea Epps
- Kimberly Brown, *School Counselor, Wade Hampton High School, Greenville, SC*

Emerging School Counselor Leaders

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

All school counselors have leadership qualities and the potential to lead, no matter what official position we may hold, and the need for effective leaders in school counseling has never been greater. The school counseling profession needs leaders who can drive systemic change in their school, district, state and the nation. ASCA and state school counselor associations need leaders who can guide the school counseling profession into the future. Learn more about leadership opportunities in the school counseling profession, such as your state school counselor association or the ASCA Board of Directors.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain how leaders drive systemic change in organizations 2) List ways to collaborate with peers and people at higher levels of authority 3) Identify ways to lead through volunteer opportunities with ASCA and state school counselor associations

Speakers:

- Matthew Berry, *Coordinator of School Counseling, Rockwood School District, Eureka, MO*
- Ebonee Magee-Dorsey, *ASCA Board Chair & District School Counselor/CTE Counselor, Lawrence School District, Monticello, Miss.*

Integrate AI to Augment Your Program

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

As the field of school counseling evolves in response to increasingly complex student needs, artificial intelligence (AI) offers a powerful – yet underutilized – complement to human-centered practices. By integrating AI in ethically grounded and focused ways, school counselors can enhance efficiency, increase responsiveness and expand their leadership capacity to support each and every student. Explore the emerging role of AI in advancing school counselors' work. As schools face increasing demands to address students' academic, career and social/emotional needs amid school counselor shortages and systemic barriers, incorporating AI technology offers innovative solutions to augment school counseling services, not replace the role of school counselors.

Learning Objectives:

1. Articulate the current state of school counselors' AI literacy
2. Describe how school counselors can integrate AI's utility to deliver school counseling services
3. Identify practical AI application for your current school/district settings

Speakers:

- Yiyong Xiong, *Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University*
- Anita Young, *Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University*

ASCA in Your Neighborhood: The State of Our Youth

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

This interactive session places students at the center of youth wellness conversations based on how they are affected by current events. Hear students from various backgrounds share how national policy, local community shifts, elevated immigration activity and more directly affect their mental health, what helps them and what they need from adults. Engage in authentic, collaborative discussions to translate student insights into actionable next steps.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Identify at least three specific ways national policies and sociopolitical climates (e.g., immigration, local legislation) uniquely affect secondary students' mental health
- 2) Develop

immediate, student-informed strategies to implement within your local school environments

Speakers:

- Charles Williams, *School Counselor, School of Science and Engineering, Dallas, TX*
- Mads Bourdon, *School Counselor, North Clackamas School District, Portland, OR*
- Angela Avery, *School Counselor, Sanford Middle School, Sanford, ME*
- Gabrielle Brundidge, *School Counselor, Lee Roy Myers Middle School, Savannah, GA*

Student and Staff Loss Protocols

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Learn about one district's response protocol for managing the loss of a student or staff member. Focusing on clear communication, crisis intervention and ongoing emotional support, the protocol equips all members of the crisis team with structured steps to respond compassionately and effectively during times of grief.

Learning Objectives: 1) Discuss the structure and purpose of a district-level crisis response protocol for student and staff loss, including the importance of clear communication, coordinated intervention and compassionate support. 2) Identify key roles and responsibilities within a school or district crisis response team, including principals, directors, school counselors, human resources and community mental health partners 3) List foundational planning questions to begin drafting or refining a response protocol for your district, ensuring alignment with board policy, equity considerations and sustainability

Speakers:

- Jessica Hogaboom, *Coordinator of Counseling Services, Union Public Schools, Tulsa, OK*
- Kenneth Moore, *Executive Director, Secondary Education, Union Public Schools, Tulsa, OK*
- Scott Pennington, *Director of Hope, Union Public Schools, Tulsa, OK*
- Lindsay Smith, *Executive Director of Special Services, Union Public Schools, Tulsa, OK*

Advocacy for 504 Roles

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

School counselors are positioned to advocate for appropriate roles in supporting students with Section 504 plans, but communicating those roles effectively to education partners can be challenging. Focus on developing and practicing concise elevator speeches and tailored presentations for local boards of education. Using the ASCA position statement The School Counselor and Section 504 Plan and Process as a foundation, learn to craft clear advocacy messages, practice delivery with peers and strategies for influencing decision-makers. Leave with a polished speech and presentation outline you can immediately adapt to your local context.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify key advocacy points from the ASCA 504 position statement that align with appropriate school counselor roles 2) Develop a concise, impactful elevator speech to communicate the school counselor's role in the 504 process 3) Practice delivering advocacy messages to peers and receive constructive feedback 4) Create an outline for a board of education presentation to advocate for school counselor roles in 504 planning

Speakers:

- Jessica Conter, *Resource Counselor, Quince Orchard High School, Gaithersburg, MD*

High School Counselors Affinity Group Meeting

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Join the inaugural meeting of the High School Counselors Affinity Group. This is a welcoming space designed for school counselors working in high school settings to come together, build connections and strengthen community. Share insights, practical strategies and solutions that support student success and enhance professional practice. Whether you are looking to connect with colleagues, learn from others' experiences or contribute your own perspective, you're welcome to join this emerging community. Your voice and participation will help shape the future of this Affinity Group.

Learning Objectives:**Monday, July 13**

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM CDT

Theory-Driven Creative Counseling Sessions

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

For new and experienced school counselors alike, it can be difficult to apply the principles of counseling theory to our day-to-day work in a way that appeals to students. Theory, however, doesn't have to be dry. Learn concrete examples of how to creatively use counseling theory in individual, group and classroom settings to increase your impact on student outcomes. Incorporating creative techniques can positively affect your school counseling program by increasing effectiveness, decreasing time spent on responsive services and creating a common schoolwide language. Additionally, you can create a common understanding of healthy mindsets and behaviors among education partners, which improves communication among students, families and staff and adds energy to your program.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe appropriate use of creative, theory-driven school counseling techniques in individual, group and classroom settings 2) Analyze your theoretical orientation as well as your caseload to consider creative techniques that best apply to your own program 3) Create or adapt a creative technique for use in your own program

Speakers:

- Richard Tench, *School Counselor, St. Albans High School, Charleston, WV*
- Wilson Harvey, *School Counselor, Justice High School, Falls Church, VA*

Create Data Graphs to Show Results

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Visual representation of the impact of school counselors' work is important to building support for the school counseling program. Data graphs can facilitate the creation of infographics, slide presentations and newsletter articles that inform education partners about the added value of school counselors to improve student outcomes. Discover ways to identify what to include, how to summarize student responses and methods for creating quality graphs that convey impact at a glance.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain the difference between Likert-scale and knowledge-based items on ASCA Student Standards pre-/post-assessments 2) Calculate average student response for Likert-scale items 3) Identify the key components of a quality graph 4) Describe methods to create graphs

Speakers:

- Sarah Flier, *ASCA Certified Trainer & School Counselor, Willow River Elementary School, Hudson, Wis.*
- John Eschenbacher, *Lead High School Counselor, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN*

Empower Student Voices for Belonging

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Explore how student-led initiatives can disrupt harmful language and transform school climate. Learn about "The Language We Carry," a restorative, identity-affirming framework where students unpack hateful slur speech, share lived experiences and reimagine inclusive communities. Walk away with ASCA-aligned tools to address bias, promote healing and elevate student voice through practical, replicable strategies.

Learning Objectives:

1) Design a student-led initiative addressing hateful and harmful slur speech using by restorative and identity-affirming practices aligned with the ASCA National Model® 2) Apply culturally responsive, ASCA lesson plan and small-group planning templates to facilitate conversations around language, identity and belonging 3) Implement practical strategies to elevate student voice and promote healing-centered accountability through advisory, peer leadership or SEL programs 4) Identify key tools, data-tracking methods and reflection prompts to measure climate impact and ensure inclusion for students most affected by bias-based harm

Speakers:

- Dr. Bernell Elzey, Jr. , *Teaching Faculty, Antioch University*
- Tyla Kennedy, *School Counselor, Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, Kenner, LA*

Tips from RAMP Reviewers

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

When applying for RAMP®, it's important to maximize your efforts. Discover lessons learned from those involved in the scoring process, highlighting tips and pitfalls. Hear from these experts before tackling the RAMP® application.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify where points are lost on the RAMP® application
2. Describe common pitfalls

Speakers:

- Crystal Brewer, *ASCA Certified Trainer*
- Christine Barker, *Coordinator of Counseling and Mental Health, Torrance Unified School District, Torrance, CA*

Build SEL Skills with Board Games

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Play is the language of children and, when used with intention, board games become powerful tools for building social/emotional skills. Learn how you can adapt classic board games for individual and group counseling at the elementary level to support skills such as emotion identification, flexible thinking, growth mindset, self-regulation and perspective-taking. Leave with practical strategies and examples that double as low-cost, high-engagement tools – plus ideas for documenting your work using the ASCA National Model® lesson plan and small-group plan templates.

Learning Objectives: 1) Adapt and modify classic board games to teach specific social/emotional learning skills such as emotion identification, self-regulation and flexible thinking in both group and individual counseling settings 2) Create the “Practice Content” section of an ASCA Lesson Plan Template or Small-Group Plan and Data Report Template by incorporating game-based SEL activities that support student needs and school counseling goals

Speakers:

- Tanya Kirschman, *School Counselor, Billings Public Schools, Billings, MT*

Lead Effective School-Based Crisis Response

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

When a crisis hits a school community, the difference between chaos and coordinated care often comes down to preparation and practice. Drawing from real-world experience, focus on practical strategies for every phase of response – from prevention and preparedness to recovery. Engage in interactive scenarios, gain ready-to-use tools and leave with a framework that fosters safety, resilience and healing for students, staff and families.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Identify the five mission areas of crisis preparedness and how they apply in a school setting
- 2) Discuss best practices for assembling and leading a school crisis team
- 3) Utilize tools and templates to guide effective crisis communication, student/family support and responder self-care
- 4) Implement debriefing strategies that enhance team performance and long-term recovery efforts

Speakers:

- Whitney Thompson, *School Counselor, Lincoln Memorial Elementary School, Caney Valley, KS*
- Donita Ernest, *School Counselor, Caney Valley High School, Caney, Kansas*
- Elizabeth Burch, *School-Based Mental Health Therapist, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas*

Assess Your School Counseling Practices

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

What do you need to know about your own school counseling practices that will allow you to take your program to the next level? Learn about the five levels of school counseling practice with a self-assessment tool. Hear how one school district used the self-assessment to identify professional development plans, take the self-assessment survey based on the ASCA National Model® and reflect on your own strengths and areas for growth. Walk away with resources and strategies to increase your school counseling practices and take your program to the next level.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Discuss the five school counselor practice levels
- 2) Identify your own school counseling practice strengths and areas for growth after taking a self-assessment
- 3) Analyze the results of the self-assessment according to four themes and identify strategies for moving to the next level of school counseling practice
- 4) Explain how school counselors in one state used the self-assessment to identify professional development goals for growth

Speakers:

- Carol Kaffenberger, *Associate Professor Emerita, George Mason University*
- Anita Young, *Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University*
- Debra Brokaw, *School Counseling Consultant, Debra Brokaw Consulting*

Sadistic Online Groups and AI

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Like many technological advances before it, today's technology, especially and generative artificial intelligence (GAI), brings both exciting opportunities and significant risks. How should the growing accessibility of these tools reshape our internet safety messages for students and families? The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children continues to see reports of youth-produced explicit content involving children of all ages. Since 2022, there has been a sharp increase in CyberTipline reports involving sextortion, GAI-related scams and sadistic online groups. Learn about these emerging risks, and discover how to update prevention messaging for students and families.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify and access at least three prevention resources available online to address self-generated content, GAI exploitation, sadistic online groups and sextortion with elementary, middle and high school audiences 2) Explain why shifting prevention messaging away from victim-responsibility and toward upstander and adult-intervention strategies is more trauma-informed, especially when addressing GAI-created material and sadistic online groups 3) Articulate why prevention programs must address GAI exploitation, sextortion and sadistic online groups with young children, not only tweens and teens

Speakers:

- Cynthia Smith, *Program Manager, Outreach, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*

School Counselor/Administrator Partnerships

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

A strong school counselor/administrator partnership is vital for implementing restorative practices across all grade levels. Explore how collaboration enhances school climate, student behavior and overall well-being. Drawing on experience in both roles, hear practical resources, real-world examples and adaptable strategies for various developmental stages. Leave with actionable tools and evidence-based approaches to strengthen partnerships and effectively embed restorative practices in your school.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify effective restorative practices that foster positive student mindsets 2) Explain the purpose and benefits of a collaborative approach to restorative practices 3) Analyze opportunities within your own school to strengthen partnerships between administrators and school counseling teams

Speakers:

- Amelia Owen, *Assistant Head of School and Director of School Counseling, Boca Prep International School, Boca Raton, FL*

Making MTSS Work for Elementary School Counselors

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

The fifth edition of the ASCA National Model® makes it clear that school counseling programs must be aligned with MTSS, especially to eliminate systemic barriers and engage in culturally responsive strategies. But how do we do this? Hear concrete strategies for elementary school counselors. Learn about a tool for tiered school counseling data; discuss how to overcome common challenges in MTSS implementation; understand our role advocating for systemic change for each and every student; and more. Leave with tips, tools and energy to freshen up your ASCA/MTSS elementary school counseling program.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain key tenants of ASCA National Model® and MTSS alignment for elementary school counselors 2) Examine exemplar school counseling/MTSS alignment tools from schools and districts across the country that are integrated with ASCA National Model® templates, 3) Create a concrete plans and goals to update and improve your school counseling program in the year ahead, specific for the elementary level

Speakers:

- Emily Goodman-Scott, PhD, *Professor, Old Dominion University*
- Jennifer Betters-Bubon, *Professor, University of Wisconsin Whitewater*
- Peg Donohue, *Associate Professor, Central Connecticut State University*
- Shannon Wingert, *Supervisor, Elementary School Counseling, Spotsylvania County Public Schools, Fredericksburg, VA*

Change the Anxiety Conversation

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Make comprehensive, schoolwide changes in how student anxiety is addressed by shifting from avoidance-based accommodations to process-based strategies. Examine the unintended effects of common interventions, including 504 supports, and explore more effective approaches promoting emotional growth. Focus on Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports, collaboration with families and staff, and school counselor self-awareness. Gain practical tools to reduce and/or revise accommodations, promote resilience and lead schoolwide conversations that empower students to tolerate discomfort and thrive.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify common school-based responses to anxiety that may unintentionally reinforce avoidance and anxiety in students 2) Implement Tier 1 classroom lesson plans and Tier 2 small-group plans addressing anxiety and aligned with MTSS and the ASCA National Model®, intentionally promoting student growth in key ASCA Student Standards 3) Analyze how adult behaviors, including educator and family responses, affect student anxiety cycles 4) Design and facilitate schoolwide professional learning and family book study groups

Speakers:

- Dr. Cindy Murphy, *Instructor, Grand Canyon University*
- Leanne Hale, *School Social Worker, Oconee County School District, Watkinsville, GA*

CTE Partnerships

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Navigating the path to college, career and life-readiness can be complex for today's students. Career and technical education (CTE) provides a bridge between schools and industry, connecting students to real-world opportunities and skills. Explore how school counselors can leverage CTE programs, industry partnerships and career-focused databases to expand access and opportunity for all students. Learn strategies to help students build professional networks, explore career pathways and create actionable postsecondary plans, ensuring they are supported every step of the way toward future success.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify ways school counselors can support students in building professional networks and planning for next steps beyond high school 2) Utilize an industry database and tracking tools to expand opportunities for students and monitor their progress 3) Recognize the role of CTE in promoting access to high-demand, high-wage career pathways for all students

Speakers:

- Ashley Stolhand, *Assistant Director, Career & Technical Education, Peninsula School District, Gig Harbor, WA*
- Kelsey Parke, *CTE Director, Peninsula School District*

Use-of-Time 5-Day Calculator

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

If you're not tracking, where's your backing? Learn about the power of documenting, analyzing and communicating your time. Hear the steps to complete the ASCA use-of-time 5-day calculator, and become more empowered to advocate for your role and time usage. When completed accurately and communicated effectively, the use-of-time calculator is a critical tool in your advocacy toolbox. Add this process to your professional advocacy efforts.

Learning Objectives:

1) Define the purpose/use of the use-of-time 5-day calculator 2) Identify activities that are direct, indirect, program planning/school support, fair-share duties and non-school-counseling tasks 3) Explain the intent of 80/20 4) Utilize use-of-time assessments as an advocacy tool

Speakers:

- Karen Devine, *ASCA Certified Trainer & School Counselor, Taft High School, Chicago, Ill.*
- Joyce Hollins, *School Counselor, Summit High School, Spring Hill, Tennessee*

Flex Your Research Muscle

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Join the Professional School Counseling journal editors to learn how you can submit a manuscript to ASCA's scholarly journal. From practitioner research to conceptual manuscripts to quantitative research and more, ASCA's journal offers a number of opportunities for you to flex your research capabilities and publish your work.

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain how to submit a manuscript to ASCA's scholarly journal.

Speakers:

- Sherri Turner, *Professor, University of Minnesota*
- Tamara Davis, *Professor, Marymount University*
- Angie Hickman, CAE, *Director of Research and Marketing, ASCA*
- Carol Kaffenberger, *Associate Professor Emerita, George Mason University*

Substance Abuse Prevention & Education

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Address adolescent substance use through prevention, education and harm reduction. Explore adolescent development and its link to risky behaviors, including cannabis concentrates, vaping, hallucinogens and synthetics. Engage in live role-play to build confidence in leading supportive, nonjudgmental conversations that encourage accountability and informed choices. Learn harm reduction strategies that promote coping skills, personal safety and resilience. Walk away with practical tools, resources and a deeper understanding of how you can lead prevention and early intervention efforts that resonate with students.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain the connection between adolescent development and the risks associated with substance use, including the impact of trending substances such as vapes, THC concentrates and synthetic drugs 2) Demonstrate how to apply harm reduction strategies in conversations and prevention programming with students 3) Practice facilitating supportive, developmentally appropriate conversations with students through role-play, promoting self-awareness and personal responsibility 4) Identify strategies and resources to implement a comprehensive substance use prevention and intervention program that supports students in building effective coping skills and overcoming barriers

Speakers:

- Deanna Valdez, *Crossroads Counselor, Valley High School, Albuquerque, NM*
- Michelle Medved, *Middle School Crossroads Counselor, Albuquerque Public Schools, Albuquerque, NM*
- Christine Loidolt, *Crossroads Counselor, La Cueva High School, Albuquerque, NM*

The ASCA National Model in Alternative Ed

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Students in alternative and continuation schools face unique barriers such as credit deficiency, frequent mobility and systemic inequities that make fidelity to the ASCA National Model® challenging. These barriers are compounded by limited resources, nontraditional scheduling and the reality that school counselors in these settings often serve multiple roles with significant time constraints. Understand the power of well-designed processes as the foundation for sustainable systems. Explore creative solutions and strategies, free templates and real-world examples to build school counseling programs that leverage educational technology, collaboration and advocacy to strengthen service delivery while staying aligned with the ASCA National Model®.

Learning Objectives: 1) Design process-driven systems that align with the ASCA National Model® while addressing the realities of limited resources, nontraditional schedules and multiple-role demands in alternative schools 2) Leverage educational technology to strengthen Tier 1 service delivery 3) Advocate for systemic and equitable improvements by using disaggregated data within process design in collaboration with staff, families and community members

Speakers:

- Bianca Rodriguez, *Lead Counselor, Richland Continuation High School, Orange, CA*
- Magdalena Banuelos, *School Counselor, Richland Continuation High School, Orange, CA*

Postsecondary Affinity Group Meeting

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Join the Postsecondary Affinity Group at an in-person meeting. Network with like-minded peers, connect with colleagues with shared challenges and discuss solutions and resources. The Postsecondary Affinity Group is dedicated to facilitating connections among school counselors committed to equitable access by preparing students for all facets and pathways of life after high school.

Learning Objectives:

Monday, July 13

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM CDT

RAMP Awards Dinner (ticketed event)

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM , Monday, July 13

Overview:

Join the 2026 Class of RAMP Schools at a celebratory dinner. Additional fee applies. Sponsored by Encourage.

Learning Objectives:

Tuesday, July 14

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Registration Open

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Learning Objectives:

Tuesday, July 14

8:30 AM - 8:50 AM CDT

Peaceful Spaces for Dysregulated Times

8:30 AM - 8:50 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

In school environments, students often experience moments of emotional dysregulation that can disrupt learning. Hear strategies for promoting social/emotional learning (SEL) aligned with the ASCA Student Standards, particularly B.SMS 7.: Effective coping strategies. Mindfulness practices help students de-escalate when emotions rise. Building on this foundation, classroom calming corners foster mindfulness by offering a designated space with soothing materials and self-regulation strategies. Learn skills to help educators create, implement and evaluate calming corners to promote a positive classroom climate, which strengthens student resilience, builds coping tools and minimizes disruption to learning.

Learning Objectives: 1) Create, implement and evaluate calming corners in your school/classroom

Speakers:

- Michelle Brasfield, Associate Professor, The University of Memphis
- Chloe Lancaster, Associate Professor, University of South Florida

Districtwide School Counseling Programs

8:30 AM - 8:50 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Follow the journey one district leader took toward the creation of a school counseling program based on the ASCA National Model®. Research is clear about the benefits of implementing a districtwide school counseling program to help each and every student succeed. School counselors believe each and every student should have access to a school counseling program and yet there are many barriers to putting school counseling systems in place. Learn how the ASCA National Model® and advocacy can overcome barriers to creating and implementing a school counseling program and change the trajectory of school counseling in a school district.

Learning Objectives: 1) Apply the ASCA National Model® tools and templates to advocate for, create and implement a school counseling program based on the ASCA National Model® for a school site, a district or both

Speakers:

- Christine Barker, *Coordinator of Counseling and Mental Health, Torrance Unified School District, Torrance, CA*

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM CDT

Mentoring with Purpose

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Effective mentorship and supervision are essential for developing confident, ethical and reflective school counselors. However, many school counselors enter supervisory or mentorship roles without formal training in supervision theory or practice. Bridge theory and practice by learning about developmental, reflective and solution-focused supervision models alongside practical tools for mentors and site supervisors. Explore your supervision style, learn to use SMARTIE goals, scaling questions and strategies for crucial conversations. Walk away with templates for structured check-ins and evaluations will be provided. Focus on enhancing mentorship across K–12 settings.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify and reflect on your own supervision style and theoretical orientation 2) Discuss key supervision models (eg, developmental, reflective, solution-focused) and application in school settings 3) Utilize practical tools for effective mentoring, including scaling questions, goal-setting frameworks, feedback protocols, tools for navigating challenging conversations 4) Create a structured and supportive plan for mentoring interns or mentees

Speakers:

- Sallie Wooten, *School Counselor, Apex Friendship Elementary School, Apex, NC*
- Candice Lewis, *Senior Administrator , Wake County Public Schools*

Build Aligned Career Pathways

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Creating aligned college and career readiness programming requires intentional planning from elementary through high school. Learn to design a grade-level flow that begins with exploration in elementary school, expands into structured inventories for freshmen year and results in clear pathways by junior year and into graduation. Understand how to engage task forces across grade levels, build districtwide alignment, foster teacher buy-in and use backward planning to keep students on track. Walk away with practical strategies, timelines and tools to ensure each and every student graduates with a purposeful plan for their futures.

Learning Objectives:

1. Develop a backward-planning timeline that connects grade-level activities from elementary through high school
2. Identify strategies to engage teachers and cross-level task forces in aligning student readiness efforts
3. Access practical tools to design grade-specific activities that flow into postsecondary pathway decisions by junior year

Speakers:

- Nicole Starkey, *School Counselor, Cheney High School, Cheney School District, Cheney, Wash.*

Design a Menu For Success

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

It can be confusing and overwhelming trying to decide what Tier 2 services students receive once they are identified as needing support. Learn to create an evidence-based intervention menu using functions of behavior that includes academics, SEL, behavior and attendance. Focus on matching student needs to small-group and individual interventions using achievement and life-readiness data as well as education partner feedback to problem solve which direct services students will receive. Practice this data-informed process of efficient and purposeful intervention matching. Discover progress-monitoring options that include education-partner input, ensuring you're implementing efficient data-informed decision making.

Learning Objectives:

1) Analyze and use academic achievement, life-readiness and contributing-factors data to determine which students need Tier 2 services 2) Create an evidence-based intervention menu based on functions of behavior showing direct services students may receive in Tier 2, including academic, SEL, behavior and attendance 3) Match students efficiently to the correct interventions based on student need, contributing factors and functions of behavior 4) Implement efficient progress monitoring tools to show student progress

Speakers:

- Heather Bushelman, *District MTSS Coordinator, Boone County Schools, Boone, KY*

Crisis Response in Rural Schools

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Explore a practical, scalable crisis response framework developed in a rural district addressing student mental health crises with clarity, compassion and collaboration. Access hands-on tools

including decision trees, printed guides and training templates aligned with the ASCA standards and trauma-informed practices. Leave equipped to lead crisis response improvements in your own school or district.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify key components of a crisis response framework aligned with ASCA's Ethical Standards and ASCA National Model® themes 2) Implement a step-by-step crisis decision tree to respond effectively to student risk, including self-harm, suicidal ideation and threats to others 3) Apply school counselor leadership strategies for trauma-informed crisis planning, training and collaboration in rural or resource-limited settings 4) Use printable tools and protocols to support staff in real-time crisis response and documentation

Speakers:

- Whitney Thompson, *School Counselor, Lincoln Memorial Elementary School, Caney Valley, KS*
- Elizabeth Burch, *School-Based Mental Health Therapist, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas*
- Donita Ernest, *School Counselor, Caney Valley High School, Caney, Kansas*

Leadership Development for Girls

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

By middle school, girls' confidence drops by 30%, undermining participation, engagement and achievement. Building leadership and resilience isn't extra; it's essential. In the Santa Clara USD, school counselors implemented the free Lean In Girls leadership curriculum as a Tier 2 intervention across five middle schools to help girls build confidence, resilience and belonging. Hear about data and outcomes demonstrating how leadership skill-building strengthens girls' engagement and academic achievement. Walk away with a ready-to-use framework, practical strategies and a free curriculum to replicate this intervention in your own school.

Learning Objectives: 1) Recognize how building girls' leadership and resilience supports academic engagement and student achievement 2) Design a Tier 2 small?group intervention leveraging the free Lean In Girls leadership curriculum 3) Apply strategies that strengthen girls' confidence, resilience and belonging 4) Evaluate and adapt a school?level leadership program into a scalable districtwide model

Speakers:

- Brenda Goldstein, *School Counselor, Buchser Middle School, Santa Clara, CA*
- Gilbert Montiel, *Vice Principal, Buchser Middle School, Santa Clara, CA*

MTSS in Action

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Hear how one school counselor integrated a multitiered system of supports (MTSS) with postsecondary planning to close achievement gaps and increase meaningful 1:1 student time. Discover how you can connect career clusters, course planning and advising to improve student outcomes. By reducing time spent on spreadsheets and increasing student-facing interactions, this approach maximizes success for each and every student. Learn practical strategies for building a responsive, sustainable school counseling program that balances data collection with authentic

student connections.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how an MTSS framework supports closing achievement gaps and aligns with the ASCA National Model 2) Apply data-driven strategies that integrate career clusters, course planning and postsecondary readiness into MTSS action plans 3) Identify practical methods to reduce administrative burden, increasing direct 1:1 student counseling time

Speakers:

- Jeffrey Pasiak, *School Counselor, Oak Lawn Community High School District 229, Oak Lawn, IL*

Level Up Your SEL Instruction with AI

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Have you often felt like your social/emotional learning (SEL) curriculum didn't match your school community's needs? Have you heard teachers saying that they don't have time to teach SEL during academic time? Learn how you can use AI as a thought partner to create lesson plans. Explore using AI to integrate ASCA Student Standards into academic instruction. Discuss the importance of ethics when using AI assistance for SEL lesson planning.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe current ways AI is being used in classrooms and schools 2) Discuss ethical considerations when using AI in lesson design and the importance of critical thinking for responsible implementation 3) Explain how to create customized lesson plans using AI as a thought partner 4) Integrate SEL standards into academic instruction using AI as a thought partner to reduce the time barrier teachers often face

Speakers:

- Kirsten Perry, *School Counselor, Singapore American School*
- Melissa Ockerman, *Professor, DePaul University*

Drug Prevention with Purpose

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Looking for effective, evidence-based ways to address student substance use, including vaping? Learn about a comprehensive prevention/intervention model created by school counselors for schools. Explore how to integrate curriculum, implement schoolwide prevention strategies and engage parents as partners. Hear practical applications of SBIRT and motivational interviewing to support change, while gaining alternatives to suspension and strategies to collaborate with administrators. Leave with an implementation blueprint and clear examples of how this work supports ASCA Student Standards.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify effective prevention, education and intervention strategies to address student substance use 2) Explore evidence-based curriculum and resources, including DEA Operation Prevention, Stanford's Safety First and Tobacco/Cannabis Toolkits and how to incorporate them into classroom lessons, schoolwide events and community outreach 3) Explain how to develop and implement a school-based intervention process using tools such as the SBIRT framework, motivational interviewing and referral systems involving administration and families 4) Analyze real-world examples to understand how schoolwide collaboration and school-counselor-led programming support ASCA Student Standards, including self-management, personal responsibility and effective coping skills

Speakers:

- Deanna Valdez, *Crossroads Counselor, Valley High School, Albuquerque, NM*
- Christine Loidolt, *Crossroads Counselor, La Cueva High School, Albuquerque, NM*

Design Products to Promote Your Program

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Bring your laptop or device and don't just learn Canva, create with it to advocate for your school counseling program. In this hands-on, fast-paced workshop, you'll design ready-to-use products (handouts, presentations, social media posts and more) that highlight your impact and promote your program to families, students, teachers and other education partners. Through design challenges, gallery walks, collaboration and show-and-tell, gain inspiration from peers and explore creative ideas. Walk away with polished, visually appealing materials you can immediately use to showcase, elevate and advocate for your school counseling program.

Learning Objectives:

1) Create materials that connect effectively with education partners and promote your school counseling program 2) Learn that promoting your school counseling program is a form of professional advocacy 3) Learn fundamental Canva skills, including using templates, customizing colors and fonts, adding images/icons and downloading/exporting materials 4) Learn ways to share your designs to promote your school counseling program

Speakers:

- Dr. Danielle Schultz, *School Counselor, Quaker Valley Middle School, Sewickley, PA*
- Andrea J. Burston, *School Counselor, J.Y. Joyner Magnet Elementary School, Raleigh, NC*

Books and Stories

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Groups are an effective intervention for academic, career and social/emotional issues, promoting a safe, inclusive school community aligned with the ASCA National Model®. School counselors design groups in response to current issues and student needs, highlighting school counselor accountability and role in systemic change. A small-group inspired by bibliocounseling, with books

as the foundation for students to discuss themes and write and share their own stories, fosters healthy identity development and effective communication skills. Hear a research-informed and theory-driven framework for designing a small-group plan for adolescents using bibliocounseling and narrative techniques.

Learning Objectives:

1) Apply developmental, learning, counseling and education theories while providing short-term counseling in small-group and individual settings 2) Apply theory-based, research-informed techniques, including the use of bibliocounseling, to develop original small-groups 3) Utilize the Small-Group Plan and Data Report Template to map out group priorities and the strategies to achieve these aims 4) Document efforts by using the ASCA Student Standards Delivery Plan Template to use as an ongoing record of the standards delivered through group sessions

Speakers:

- Aubrey Uresti, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor, San José State University*
- Suzy Thomas, Ph.D., *Professor, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA*

Gifted and Twice-Exceptional Support

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Gifted and twice-exceptional students stand at the intersection of both potential and multifaceted challenges. Cognitively gifted students often face heightened expectations and social/emotional complexities, while twice-exceptional students (gifted + ADHD, autism, dyslexia, etc.) present unique support needs. By applying developmental and counseling theories through evidence-based strategies and supporting students with an understanding of their unique neurotype, school counselors promote and enhance student academic, career and social/emotional development. Explore practical interventions through interactive discussions and case studies.

Learning Objectives:

1) Apply developmental and learning theories to understand the unique developmental patterns and needs of gifted and twice-exceptional students 2) Implement evidence-based counseling strategies to provide short-term individual and small-group counseling addressing the complex challenges these students face 3) Develop collaborative action plans with teachers, families and administrators using the ASCA framework to create supportive environments that enhance academic, career and social/emotional development for gifted and twice-exceptional learners

Speakers:

- Emily Kircher-Morris, *Licensed Professional Counselor, Unlimited Potential Counseling*

Tuesday, July 14

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM CDT

Support Youth in Foster Care

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Across the United States there are nearly 400,000 children in foster care. Some estimates state that up to 80% of these youth struggle with significant trauma and mental health challenges. As school counselors, we are often tasked with helping these youth and their foster families navigate a broken system. Learn practical strategies you can use to support youth in foster care and their foster families.

Learning Objectives: 1) Implement strategies to promote healing and resilience in youth in foster care and their foster families

Speakers:

- Brooke Hagenau, *School Counselor, Pinewood Elementary School, Omaha, NE*
- Martha-Jane Matthews, *School Counselor, Central Park Elementary, Omaha, NE*

ASCA Student Standards Delivery Plan

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Delivering school counseling activities and services to students improves student achievement. The ASCA Student Standards Delivery Plan Template helps you create an effective plan to teach students the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level, informed by specific ASCA Student Standards. Learn best practices for completing the ASCA Student Standards Delivery Plan template.

Learning Objectives:

1) Explain how the classroom and small-group action plan aligns with other ASCA National Model® templates, such as calendars and the achievement gap plan and results report 2) Identify the appropriate settings to use the classroom and small-group action plans when delivering direct services

Speakers:

- Samantha Vidal, *School Counseling Professional Learning Specialist, Keep Indiana Learning, a department of CIESC*

Attendance & Academic Achievement

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Chronic absence is a leading indicator and cause of educational inequity. Consistent attendance is crucial for academic achievement and long-term educational outcomes. Understand attendance data as a contributing factor in achievement disparities. Use attendance-focused interventions to address achievement gaps.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Describe attendance as a contributing factor to achievement
- 2) Use data to show impact of attendance interventions on achievement

Speakers:

- Susan Arvidson, *ASCA Certified Trainer, Lead RAMP Reviewer*

Tuesday, July 14

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM CDT

Harness the Power of Google

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Many sessions about tech share amazing extensions, websites, and subscriptions to enhance a school counselor's practice, but it can be overwhelming trying to remember all of these and juggling which to use when. Discover how to harness the full power of Google Workspace's built-in tools, such as Forms, Sheets, Docs, and Calendar, without leaving the Google ecosystem. Learn practical tips to streamline organization, automate tasks and enhance communication, all while keeping tech simple and stress-free. Since you already use Google, Google Docs, Google Maps, Google Drive and all the other apps within the Google ecosystem, you're already halfway there.

Learning Objectives: 1) Utilize at least one new feature within the Google Apps 2) Explain how features within Google can lead to more efficient work, resulting in more direct service time 3) Implement new Google resources to better serve students

Speakers:

- Brian Linhart, *School Counselor, Buffalo Grove High School, Buffalo Grove, IL and Adjunct Professor, National Louis University*

A Lesson Plan of Champions

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Are you stuck, wondering where to begin when planning a classroom lesson? Have you struggled to implement an effective lesson plan? Does the ASCA Lesson Plan Template scare you? Learn to write a comprehensive classroom lesson plan using the ASCA Lesson Plan Template, and receive samples of lesson plans in all three domains of the ASCA National Model®: academic, postsecondary and social/emotional.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain how to create a comprehensive lesson plan using the ASCA Lesson Plan Template 2) Describe how to facilitate an effective lesson plan that will benefit all students in the building 3) Identify multiple teaching modalities to utilize in lesson plans

Speakers:

- Nicole Simon, *School Counselor, North-Grand High School, Chicago, IL*

- Lisa Delgadillo, *School Counselor, Hibbard Elementary School, Chicago, IL*

Responsibility: The Fourth R in Student Success

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Educating students on how to evaluate their choices and behavior so they can have productive lives is a challenge many school counselors face. Sometimes students will listen and change their behavior, but other times they will continue to behave irresponsibly. Understand why students make choices based on their needs, and discover strategies to implement so students take responsibility for their behavior. Discover a four-step process, techniques and strategies you can implement immediately.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe why students make choices and behave based on Choice Theory and Reality Therapy Describe how basic needs influence behavior and choices 2) Explain the WDEP (wants, doing, evaluate, plan) technique to teach students to evaluate their behavior, make better choices and develop effective plans

Speakers:

- Sylinda Banks, *School Counselor, Prince William Public Schools, Manassas, VA*

Data, Standards & Buy-In

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

District leaders play a critical role in creating systematic, preventive college- and career-readiness (CCR) programs that ensure each and every student is on track for postsecondary success. Explore a leadership framework for building a comprehensive CCR system aligned with state standards and supported by clean, accurate data. Discover strategies for monitoring student progress, identifying students who are off track and building staff buy-in to sustain a districtwide vision. Walk away with practical tools for structuring teams, assigning roles and ensuring your district's CCR program reflects true student achievement and time-saving strategies using tools with "all district collaboration."

Learning Objectives: 1) Design a districtwide college & career readiness (CCR) framework aligned with state standards and the ASCA National Model® 2) Implement systems to track, analyze and act on student CCR data to close readiness gaps and track CCR state requirements 3) Build collaborative teams and assign leadership roles to ensure buy-in, clean data and program sustainability

Speakers:

- Ann Trocchio, *Director of School Counseling, Solon High School, Solon, OH*

Student Crisis Response

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

School counselors are often on the front lines when a crisis occurs, yet their role on a mental health crisis response team can look very different across elementary, middle, and high school settings. This session will help counselors clarify their role, examine evidence-based crisis response models, and identify non-negotiables for an effective school crisis plan.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify the school counselor's role in supporting a student mental health crisis response team across elementary, middle, and high school levels 2) Describe at least three non-negotiables of an effective crisis plan 3) Explore evidence-based crisis response models

Speakers:

- Veronica Douglas, *School Counselor, Caddo Parish Schools, Shreveport, LA*
- Monique Young, *School Counselor, Kansas City, Missouri*

Professional Self-Care

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

School counselor roles are demanding and stressful, as well as rewarding, especially during times of community stress, change or crisis – when it is most difficult to add self-care activities onto our schedules. Yet professional self-care and stress management are a component of ethical practice for school counselors. Having an array of professional self-care strategies for difficult times can help. Learn effective on-the-go stress management strategies that don't add tasks to your to-do list, and create your own individualized toolkit. Get tips for incorporating new strategies into your workday.

Learning Objectives:

1) Describe risks and impacts of burnout, compassion fatigue and secondary traumatic stress as it applies to ethical practice 2) Use three effective strategies for self-care in times of stress 3) Create a personal self-care toolkit 4) Identify two techniques to strengthen and use new skills

Speakers:

- Karen Rogers, *Program Director for Postdoctoral Training, National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at CHLA*

Cybersecurity Character Education

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

In today's digital landscape, both digital citizenship and cybersecurity are crucial for protecting our students. Understanding online safety and responsible behavior helps students navigate the digital world, safeguard their personal information, recognize the consequences of their online actions and effectively report cyberbullying. Explore free, ready-to-use lessons designed to equip students with the skills they need for both secure and ethical online decision-making.

Learning Objectives:

1) Brainstorm ways to teach students how their actions affect the larger digital world; how ethics, laws and policies affect our digital lives; and what it means to be an informed cyber citizen 2) Strategize ways to teach students how to protect their data and information through people, processes and technology; the types of attacks that must be defended against and the concepts used to secure information, networks and physical assets 3) Explain the role of digital citizenship in teaching students character education

Speakers:

- Charlene Cooper, *Director, CYBER.ORG*
- Georgette Price, *Deputy Director of CYBER.ORG, CYBER. ORG*

Future Careers in a Changing World

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Generation Alpha (born 2010 and beyond) will enter a workforce transformed by artificial intelligence, automation and careers that do not yet exist. As digital natives, they bring creativity, adaptability and technological fluency, yet they face career uncertainty, mental health stressors and overwhelming choices. Hear how to design career development programs for Generation Alpha beginning in elementary and middle school. Drawing on career theory, explore strategies that promote exploration, self-concept and adaptability. Focus on family engagement, responsible technology use and culturally responsive practices. Leave with hands-on activities and resources to inspire meaningful futures.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify defining characteristics of Generation Alpha and how these traits influence career development needs 2) Apply established age-appropriate career counseling interventions for Generation Alpha students 3) Strategize ways to foster career adaptability, resilience and family engagement in career readiness programs

Speakers:

- Jennifer Curry, *Professor, Louisiana State University*
- Braydan LaFleur, *M.Ed. Candidate, Louisiana State University*

Solution-Focused Play Counseling with Anxious Students

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

Explore how Solution-Focused Play Counseling (SFPC) can effectively support students experiencing a wide range of social/emotional and academic challenges. Understand the contributing factors to student anxiety and the potential impact anxiety can have on learning, behavior and overall well-being. Hear practical insights into how school counselors can integrate SFPC strategies within a comprehensive school counseling program to reduce anxiety and foster resilience. By focusing on students' strengths and resources, SFPC offers a developmentally appropriate and evidence-informed approach to promoting student success.

Learning Objectives: 1) Explain factors contributing to student anxiety and consider how anxiety may affect student outcomes 2) Describe Solution-Focused Play Counseling basic principles and techniques 3) Identify three–five solution-focused play counseling interventions you can use within the school counseling program to address student anxiety

Speakers:

- Dr. Ann Tilman, *Associate Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University*

Advocate for Your Program

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

School counselors never hesitate to champion students, yet they often think twice when advocating for their own school counseling programs. Leave equipped with creative, high-impact strategies to showcase the value of your work to administrators, staff and the community. Discover how to use data, storytelling and practical advocacy tools to secure more time with students and elevate your program's visibility. Walk away with ready-to-use strategies to communicate your program's impact and strengthen support for your role. Learn to amplify your program's success and have an impact on each and every student.

Learning Objectives: 1) Identify at least three creative and practical strategies to advocate for school counseling programs with administrators, staff and community stakeholders 2) Demonstrate how to use data and storytelling to communicate the impact of school counseling programs on student achievement 3) Develop an advocacy action plan to increase time spent in direct student services through effective program advocacy

Speakers:

- Nichol Webb, *School Counseling and Career Readiness Program Specialist, Georgia Department of Education*
- Sheila McKeehan, *School Counselor, Adairsville Middle School, Adairsville, GA*

School Counselor Interventions

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

After identifying student needs and targeting an ASCA Student Standard, school counselors are faced with the task of deciding how to best intervene. Explore strategies to ascertain the skills and knowledge students might need based on the student outcome deficit identified. Focus on a variety of activities that foster learning and available resources.

Learning Objectives:

1) Identify potential knowledge/skills students need 2) Identify and select strategies to use with students 3) Locate resources

Speakers:

- Kerry Bartlett, *School/Career Counselor, Hudson High School, Hudson, Mass.*

- Megen Stair, *ASCA Certified Trainer & School Counselor* , *Park Vista Community High School, Lake Worth, Fla.*

Tuesday, July 14

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Closing General Session: Rosalind Wiseman

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM , Tuesday, July 14

Overview:

The Adults Our Children Deserve

Bestselling author Rosalind Wiseman reframes school counseling as essential leadership. She names the “invisible operating systems” that shape how adults talk to young people, exposes the phrases that shut students down and offers concrete communication strategies to transform those miscommunications into moments of dignity, honesty and growth. You’ll leave with practical scripts, boundary?protecting language and leadership tools that help you move beyond Enforcer/Protector roles into Generous Authority – exactly the kind of school counselor leadership our students and schools need.

Learning Objectives: