

Virtual Only Sessions

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

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*

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 multlingual 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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

Sunday, July 12

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM CDT

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*

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*

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

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)*

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*

Sunday, July 12

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM CDT

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*

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*

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*

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-infomred 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*

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*

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*

Sunday, July 12

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM CDT

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*

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*

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,j 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*

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*

Monday, July 13

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM CDT

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*

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*

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*

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*

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

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CDT

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*

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*

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*

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*

Monday, July 13

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM CDT

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*

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*

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*

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.*

Monday, July 13

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM CDT

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*

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*

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*

Tuesday, July 14

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM CDT

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*

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 schoo-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, *Licenced Professional Counselor*, *Unlimited Potential Counseling*

Tuesday, July 14

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM CDT

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*

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*

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: