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Presidential View Advocacy²


Denise Latour, LSCA President, 2018-19

Kudos! Throughout the year I have issued challenges to the membership. I was pushing for a nomination from every school district for SCOY. While we didn't hit our target, I am pleased with the outcome. There were forty school counselors nominated for the award. Keep reading to learn who they are. 



In Memory of Eloise Brown

By Vinetta Frie, Cajun Counselor Editor

In 1987, Eloise Brown a former LSCA President became President of LCA. When I received word this spring that she had passed away, I realized that just mentioning this fact would not be enough. The first counselors to receive their professional state license occurred during her term. 

Changing Requirements for School Counselor Certification in Louisiana

Submitted by Dr. Wendy Rock, Post Secondary Vice President

In 2011, the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence made recommendations for changes to school counselor preparation and certification. The emphasis was on helping PK-12 students become college and career ready. Among the recommendations were a shift to completion of standards rather than specific courses and achieving a passing score on the PRAXIS exam in school counseling. The new certifications requirements were approved and went into effect in 2015; however, students who were already working toward school counseling cer-



(Changing Requirements, continued on page 2)

Upcoming Event

LSCA Board Meeting
Saturday: June 8th
Drusillia Restaurant
Baton Rouge, LA
10 a.m.

LSCA's Mission:

To support professional school counselors as they assist students and their families in their academic, career, and personal/social development.



Grateful For Elementary School Counselors!

Danielle Cole, Elementary VP

Spring time brings about numerous tasks to keep us busy, from testing and promotion/retention, to being sure students are prepared for their transition to the next level. While we are diligent about being in the trenches for the overall success of our students, we must remember to have that same effort when advocating for the work we do with our students.

Several of our colleagues will be recognized in the fall for their commitment and ability to implement comprehensive programs. Highlighting what they have done is a great way to acknowledge their success, and can be used as a platform to advocate for our profession and increase appropriate school counselor tasks. We are team players by nature, yet we need to continue to do our best for our students. **It isn't too early to start planning for next year.** Reflect on what went well and what needs to be tweaked: get feedback from students and other stakeholders to drive your decision-making.

Emphasize what you want to do with your program to promote student success and make it more appealing than what others want you to do. Show data, include a meaningful story, have solutions for desired changes, and believe you can do it!



“Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, ... but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.” — L.R. Knost

Changing Requirements, continued from page 1

tification had until July 2017 to meet the new requirements.

Unfortunately, when the new certification requirements became policy, the wording stated **“completion of a standards-based master’s degree program in school counseling from a regionally accredited college or university approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP).”** This language resulted in students who graduated from other counseling tracks such as clinical mental health counseling; marriage, couple, and family counseling; or rehabilitation counseling from being able to return to school and take the required school counseling courses to become certified as a school counselor in Louisiana. In a phone conversation with the LDOE Certification Department, they made it clear that applicants who had returned to school to pursue school counseling certification after completing a counseling degree on another track had already been denied and **“...this has caused heartache for a number of candidates.”**

Beginning in January 2019, LCA and LSCA representatives got in touch with members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the policy-making body for PK-12 education, to suggest changes. Our concerns were heard, and on March 12, 2019, the Board unanimously approved our recommended changes. The new wording is:

1. completion of a standards-based master’s degree program in counseling from a regionally-accredited college or university approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP);

a. candidates completing counseling programs that are not in the specialty area of school counseling must complete six credit hours of school counseling courses from a CACREP-accredited program

In addition, interested students will need to receive a passing score on the PRAXIS exam in school counseling and complete 100 hours of practicum as required by CACREP, and 600 hours of internship in a school setting. This change will allow students who completed their counseling degree in a different specialty area to

(Changing Requirements, continued on page 3)

return to school and take specific courses and an internship in a school setting to become certified in school counseling.

Any change to public policy requires a period of public comment before the rules are officially changed. The period for public comment is 90-days. If there is no objection at the end of the 90 days, the proposed change will formally become policy. If there is opposition to the change, there could be further discussion on the matter. There is not expected to be any opposition; however, before you register for classes, know that while we do expect this to become policy, it is not policy yet.



Exciting Professional Development Opportunities Ahead!

Dr. Wendy Rock, Post-Secondary VP

LSCA members, start planning now, there are some exciting professional development opportunities ahead! This summer, thanks to the tireless advocacy efforts of Leslie Gilliland at the Louisiana Department of Education, there will be a school counselor strand at the Teacher Leader Summit! The Summit, which will take place June 26-28 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, will offer content sessions on organization and management of school counseling programs, incorporating STEM career development into your school counseling program, RAMP 101, identifying and intervening with at-risk youth, the impact of trauma on college and career readiness, and activities to support career development. Talk to your principal or central office supervisor now to get a spot at what is sure to be an excellent and engaging professional development opportunity.

In addition, start planning now to attend the Louisiana Counseling Association annual conference which will be at the Sheraton in New Orleans, September 28 – October 1, 2019. LSCA has secured Terri Tchorzynski, the ASCA 2017 School Counselor of the Year (SCOY) to provide a six-hour preconference session and to be the LSCA luncheon keynote speaker. Terri was **recognized as the SCOY during Michelle Obama's last formal speech as First Lady**. She has also twice led her school to receive a RAMP award. She is a school counselor at Calhoun Area Career Center in Battle Creek, MI. We couldn't be more thrilled to welcome her to New Orleans for the 2019 LCA Conference. Learn a little bit about Terri here <https://youtu.be/1qWdTly2q28>.



LOUISIANA
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

LSCA Executive Leadership Team: Past President Royce Hooks with current President Denise Latour, President Elect Veronica Douglas with Denise and Royce.



Could YOU
help write
LSCA's
future?



Louisiana School Counselor Association Annual Professional Recognition and Awards Program

Dr. Deona Austin, Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler, and Mrs. Kesha Simmons

The Louisiana School Counselors Association annually accepts nominations for counselors who are implementing the American School Counselors Association's **Comprehensive School Counseling Model, which involves service to all students on a regular basis through** individual counseling, group counseling and classroom guidance. The counselor must be employed as a full-time, practicing school counselor, be a current member of LSCA, and have completed at least three years as a practicing school counselor. The winner of each category (elementary, middle, secondary and post-secondary) receives a plaque and paid membership to LCA and LSCA for one year.

All nominees will receive a certificate and will be honored at the annual LSCA Luncheon in 2019 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Louisiana Counseling Association Conference will be held at the New Orleans Sheraton Hotel, starting on Saturday September 28 (pre-conference) — Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

All nominees, family members, colleagues, and nominators are invited to attend the LSCA Luncheon during the annual LCA Conference. Luncheon tickets can be purchased through LCA by emailing Diana Austin at lca_austin@bellsouth.net before July 30, 2019. The overall State Winner will be forwarded to the American School Counselor Association for consideration for national recognition.

The Louisiana School Counselors Association is honored to list the dedicated elementary, middle and high school counselors who have been nominated by a colleague or an administrator who wanted to **“Shine Light”** on the work they are doing in their schools. We applaud our 2019 School Counselor of the Year Nominees and hope to see each of them at the Awards and Recognition Luncheon:

Nominee	School	Parish
Laura Anderson	Martha Vineyard Elementary	Tangipahoa
Tracie Bordelon	Lafayette High School	Lafayette
Dana Bourgeois	Sixth Ward Middle School	Lafourche
Lana Broussard	Live Oak Elementary School	Lafayette
Lindsay Carlino	St. Michael the Archangel High School Diocese	Baton Rouge
Toni Catalani	Pineville Junior High School	Rapides
Whitney Cate	Minden High School	Webster
Twana Chestand	Tioga High School	Rapides
Stephanie Choy	Kipp Morial Elementary School	Orleans
Robin Conway-Denlinger	Westgate High School	Iberia
Ellen DeCuir	Sherwood Middle School	E. Baton Rouge
Kaiya Dockery	Travis Hill Alternative High School	Orleans
Julie Doland	Bell City High School	Calcasieu
Meghan Duplessis	Harry Hurst Middle School	St. Charles
Audrey Ford	Green Oaks Performing Arts High School	Caddo

Article continues in the next column

Nominee	School	Parish
Donna Francis	Westgate High School	Iberia
Kristi Gassen	Perrin Early Learning Center	Tangipahoa
Marquita George	Hahnville High School	St. Charles
Shemeka Green	White Castle High School	Iberville
Jenny Haigle	Pine Wood Elementary School	Beauregard
Aimee Hamblen	St. John Elementary School	Calcasieu
Shamika Hooker	Deridder High School	Beauregard
Diana Humpries	Ruston High School	Lincoln
Marquita Imes	Loranger High School	Tangipahoa
Donetta Johnson	Independence Leadership Elementary Academy	Tangipahoa
Francine Jumonville	Albert Cammon Middle	St. Charles
Denise Latour	Ponchatoula High School	Tangipahoa
Sherie Lester	Minden High School	Webster
Melody Marks	Kipp Central City Middle Academy	Orleans
Joanne Matherne	Golden Meadow Middle School	Lafourche
Stacey Noel	Norco Elementary School	St. Charles
Renee North	L.J. Alleman Middle School	Lafayette
Natalie Ricard	O. W. Dillon Leadership Elementary Academy School	Tangipahoa
Christianne Ricard	Brownsville Elementary Magnet	East Baton Rouge
Tommie Robertson	Ponchatoula High School	Tangipahoa
Candace Sharper	St. Amant Middle School	Ascension
Shelby Simpson	Kentwood High Magnet	Tangipahoa
Laura Smestad	St. Pius X Elementary Catholic School	Orleans
Ronina Walls	Independence High Magnet School	Tangipahoa
Vickie Wynn	WW. Lewis Middle School	Calcasieu



Mark Your Calendar for the LCA Day at the Capitol!

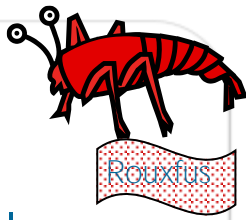
Please join us for a day of advocacy & networking at the Louisiana State Capitol. LCA's Day at the Capitol is set for Thursday, May 9, 2019. Mark your calendar to spend the day with us. We'll get more details out to you as we get closer!

This is a great opportunity to gather with your colleagues & learn more about the legislative process. Hope to see you there!



This newsletter is the work of many LSCA members! It is easy to see the great articles and appreciate their authors. I welcome three new volunteers to the newsletter team — Sarah Barnes, Layla Touchet and Laura Smestad — to the four original members who always work quietly in the background — Claire Barry, Dr. Wendy Rock, Cathy Smith and Katherine Wolf! Cathy Smith who pulls double duty as she is also LSCA Technology/Website Chair; for this issue she also took the wonderful pictures from the Awards Luncheon! Thanks to the entire team! You help to keep our associa-





Cajun Counselor

The Cajun Counselor is the quarterly newsletter of the Louisiana School Counselor Association, LSCA. LSCA is the state branch of the American School Counselor Association, ASCA. LSCA is also the largest division in LCA, the Louisiana Counseling Association. Total LSCA membership now exceeds 900 members statewide.

Please submit articles to Vinetta Frie, Newsletter Editor, via her email, frienews@yahoo.com. Please include LSCA Cajun Counselor in subject line.

Next deadline:

June 14, 2019

Louisiana School Counselor Association's Leadership Roster for 2018-2019

Elected & Appointed Officers

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daustin@winpsb.org

Denise Latour, *President*
denise.latour@tangischools.org

Jill Lockhart*, *Finance*

Royce Hooks, *Past-President*
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Brenda Eccles, *Policies/Procedures/By-Laws and Government Relations*
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Veronica Douglas, *President Elect*
jarelle2npower@aol.com

Claire Barry & Katherine Wolf, *Graduate Student Rep.*
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Dr. Ariel Mitchell, *President Elect Elect*, Amitch11@xula.edu

Keisha Simmons, *President Elect Elect Elect*

Royce Hooks,* *Nominations & Elections*

Danielle Cole, *Elementary Level VP*
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Membership Committee:
Veronica Douglas and all Vice Presidents

Dr. Dymphna Davis, *Middle Level VP*
phdddavis191307@gmail.com

Dr. Ariel Mitchell*,
Long-Range Planning,

Tanya Hebert, *Secondary VP*
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Dr. Stephanie Eberts,
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Dr. Wendy Rock, *Post Secondary VP*
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Dr. Wendy Rock*, *Professional Development*

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Sharon Jackson, *Parliamentarian*
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Cathy Smith, *Technology/Website*
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Committee Chairs

Awards Co-Chairs:

Dr. Deona Austin,
Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler, and
Keisha Simmons

*see first column for contact info

Find us on Social Media



[Louisiana School Counselor Association](#); Find announcements about LSCA here [MyLSCA-Louisiana School Counselor Association](#): Connect, collaborate, and consult with school counselors all across the state of Louisiana



[@MyLSCA](#): Find announcements about LSCA, connect, collaborate, and consult with school counselors all across the state of Louisiana



Official website of LSCA, which includes info on

LSCA leadership roles, awards, news and events, newsletters, scholarships, and more visit www.louisianaschoolcounselor.com

