

Cajun Counselor

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LOUISIANA SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

Cajun Counselor

LSCA is the state branch of the American School Counselor Association



Clawdette

## Presidential View

# ICYMI: 2019 Conference Highlights!

*Veronica Douglas, LSCA President 2019-2020*



[Editor's Note: ICYMI stands for "In Case You Missed It!"]

The 2019 LCA Conference was held in the "Big Easy" New Orleans, La. --- a fitting theme: Together We Thrive: Revitalize, Rejuvenate and Invigorate. This year's conference offered a plethora of activities and learning opportunities for Louisiana School Counselors.

The pre-conference kicked off with a powerful session to invigorate and rejuvenate school counselors. Mrs. Terri Tchorzynski, 2017 American School Counselor Association (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year winner facilitated an 8-hour session of "Superpowers for Student Success." The session focused on comprehensive planning for academic, social/emotional, and career development to ensure we are meeting the needs of all our students all of the time. Participants were able to take a look inside the daily life of a school counselor and the various challenges faced by school counselors.

LSCA awards and recognition luncheon was well attended and provided the opportunity to recognize our many members for all the hard work they provide to students, families, and the communities they serve. The following LSCA member were recognized.

**Laura Smestad,**

Elementary School Counselor of the Year

**Candace Sharper,**

Middle School Counselor of the Year

**Lindsay Carlino,**

High School Counselor of the Year

## Newsletter Features...

-  LSCA Board Meeting's mini-minutes begins on page 3
-  Vice Presidents Reports begin on page 5
-  5 Reasons for Celebrating National School Counselor Week on page 7
-  2019 LSCA Honorees highlighted, beginning on page 9
-  The LSCA Leadership Roster now requires a full page! See page 13
-  Results of the 2019 LSCA Election is on page 14

*(Presidential View, continued on page 2)*

## Louisiana School Counselor Association Mission:

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

# Welcome New, Renewing, or Reinstating LSCA Members!

By *Diane Austin, LCA  
Executive Director*

Welcome to the following  
LSCA Members who joined,  
renewed or reinstated their  
affiliation since January  
2019:

**Linda Anderson**  
**Charlesetta Andrus**  
**Amanda Arsenaux**  
**Susan Aulds**  
**Deona Austin**  
**Christopher Belser**  
**Stacey Boitnott**  
**Adrienne Brown**  
**Zorayda Castillo**  
**Tina Chaisson**  
**Andrew Cowan**  
**Kimberly Craft**  
**Jessica Cravins**  
**Rebecca Green**  
**Angelle Guillion**  
**Felicia**  
**Hensley-Whitaker**  
**Lynsey Hinnenkamp**  
**Leshecca Houston**  
**Norman**  
**Sharon Jones**

*(Welcome, continued on page 3)*

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*ICYMI: 2019 Conference Highlights , continued from page 1*

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**Leslie Gilliland**, Advocacy School Counselor

**Denise Latour**, LSCA Past President

**Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler**, LSCA Awards Chair

**Lindsay Carlino**, LSCA State School Counselor of the Year

LSCA counselors were invited to tour the campus of Tulane University and attend the Saints vs. Cowboys football watch party at Tulane's Yulman Stadium. The tour began with live music and a warm welcome from Tulane's Admission Director, staff, and students. After an abbreviated campus tour; school counselors kicked back and enjoyed live music, food and beverages in the air-conditioned Glazer Suite along with Tulane's staff and students. LSCA wishes to send a special thanks to Valerie Calenda, to the Tulane Undergraduate Admission, and to the entire staff of Tulane. We truly appreciated their planning and hard work to support Louisiana School Counselors!

LSCA continues to work hard to promote the School Counseling profession. We CANNOT continue the work we do without your help, your support and your commitment to the School Counseling Profession. Serving as your president, it is my pleasure to build, serve and support Louisiana School Counselor and The School Counseling Profession. Let's continue to grow together! See you next year at the Crowne Plaza, October 3-6, 2020 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the next LCA Fall Conference.

**Looking into the Future (20/20 vision)** As we begin to close out 2019 and move into the new year let's keep a 20/20 vision to ensure we are intentional in making sure our students know they are loved, they are important, and most importantly they are accepted.

**NSCW 2020** National School Counselors Week will be celebrated February 3-7, 2020. You can download signs from [www.schoolcounselor.org/NSCW](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/NSCW) or join @WeAreASCA #SCW2020, which promotes the unique contributions of #schoolcounselors around the globe. Be sure to share your planned events, activities and photos on our facebook page @myLSCA-Louisiana School Counselor Association! Happy #NSCW

Humbly submitted,

**Veronica Douglas,**

LPC-S, NCC, NCSC





## LSCA Board Meeting Mini-Minutes

*Claire Barry, LSCA Secretary*

The fall board meeting of the Louisiana School Counseling Association, LSCA was held at the Sheraton Hotel (New Orleans, LA) on September 29, 2019 at 8:07 during the Fall Conference of the Louisiana Counseling Association, LCA. These are the highlights of that meeting.

- \* LSCA would accept credit cards during the LCA conference for sale of T-shirts and ASCA Model publications. Veronica Douglas, LSCA President, shared that she purchased four \$25 door prizes for LSCA to give to LCA for the conference this year; each LCA Division participates.
- \* Denise Latour discusses LSCA election. She printed 600 ballots to have at the LCA conference. No mail in votes were received before the conference. Please see the last page of this newsletter for the election results.
- \* Dr. Wendy Rock, Post-Secondary Vice President, introduced Terri Tchorzynski, speaker of the LSCA Luncheon, 2017 National School Counselor of the Year, member of Michigan School Counselor Association.

\*Danielle Cole, Awards Co-Chair shared that all certificates presented as awards had been framed for nominees. Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler shares that there were 33 nominations for school counselor of the year

*(LSCA Board Mini-Minutes, continued on page 4)*

### **Participants at the 2019 Federal Student Aid Partner Summit**

*Photo submitted by Pamela Radford, LSCA Treasurer*



*Welcome, continued from page 2*

- Demecca Jones**
- Shonnye Leach**
- Jane Leonards**
- Nicholas Marchese**
- Emma Martin**
- Emy McCray**
- Alicia Naccari**
- Veta Parker**
- Brandy Parnell**
- Alexia Ray**
- Barbara Richard**
- Michael Ruiz**
- Libby Schavot**
- Bonnie Smith**
- Lisa Spriggs**
- Denise Taylor**
- Robert Whiting**
- Bethanie Williams**
- Carmen Wingate**



but only 22 were LSCA members. Vinetta Frie, Newsletter Editor, confirmed that she picked up the plaques on LSCA's behalf.

- \* Graduate Student scholarship recipient, Chauntreniece Davis, who is at LSU, was introduced. As part of her award, she will serve on the LSCA Board this year.
- \* Continuing in her role as Technology Chair, Cathy Smith will continue working on our website and is open to feedback. There was discussion of collaboration with Zach Hebert who works with LCA to promote LSCA during our division's month. Cathy will keep us updated about website information presented by ASCA at the recent Leadership Development Institute, LDI.
- \* Public Relations: Claire Barry shared information about our social media handles. Facebook (MyLSCA) Instagram (Isca19) and Twitter (@MyLSCA).
- \* Veronica Douglas shared highlights from the LCA Executive Board Meeting. She announced the Town Hall Meeting where LA Senators and LCA representatives will be present to listen to counselors' concerns. She also shared that video sessions of the select conference presentations will be available to allow counselors to earn CEUs. Vinetta Frie has been sharing the Cajun Counselor with Zach Hebert to promote what LSCA is doing. Zach is the social media chair for LCA. Conference attendance is up from 897 last year to 954 this year.
- \* Dr. Ariel Mitchell, LSCA President Elect, shared that the LSCA Awards Luncheon is a Mardi Gras theme and 144 people expected to attend. Royce Hooks, a former LSCA President, was thanked for having the luncheon programs donated. After a brief discussion, it

was decided that as there are no extra tickets, the luncheon would only be open to ticket holders.

- \* Dr. Wendy Rock provided background information about the previous LSCA Summer Institute and a discussion ensued as to whether we want to continue the event. Ideas included scheduling the event to coincide with the Teacher Leader Summit. Suggested topics included: STEM, Trauma-Informed Care, RAMP, ASCA doing the ASCA Model, Hatching Results. Terri Tchorzynski shared that Hatching Results takes the ASCA model and combines it with a delivery system with PBIS, RTI, and MTSS, which are data-driven and provide interventions that are practical to use.
- \* Cathy Smith shared that she is monitoring the CEUs process for next year's Teacher Leader Summit to seek needed approval for counselors.
- \* Next year ASCA will be June 27-30, 2020 in Seattle, Teacher Leader Summit is May 27-29, 2020 in New Orleans, & JumpStart is January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Baton Rouge.
- \* Veronica Douglas discussed using conference calls to continue conducting time-sensitive LSCA business in-between board meetings. She also shared that ASCA will pay the registration cost to attend the mid-year LDI. Claire Barry shared her experience at LDI at ASCA 2019 conference and how beneficial it was to her as an emerging board member. Locations and Dates for mid-year LDI are: Orlando, FL October 10-12, Bloomfield, NJ October 25-26, & Lisle, IL November 14-16.] The board decided to have LSCA pay airfare for President-Elect and President-Elect-Elect to attend ASCA mid-year LDI.
- \* Next meeting date: February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Woodlawn Elementary School in Baton Rouge, LA. 📍

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*Article continues in next column ...*

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# LSCA Vice Presidents Report



## Elementary School Counselors on the Move! *Miriam Davis, Elementary School Vice President*

Greetings everyone! I hope that you all enjoyed the LCA Conference this year, because I know that I did! I had the opportunity to meet and speak with many of you, and I am excited about the great things that you are doing at your schools. The presentations geared for school counselors were so informative, and I am eager to put into practice what I have learned. I hope that you were able to get what you needed so that you can finish the first half of the school year strongly.

As we continue “trucking” through the rest of the school year, remember your “theme word” that you adopted in the beginning of the school term. Continue to utilize your word frequently to remain motivated and to get through the tough days. Thank you for all that you do for our profession and I encourage you to continue advocating and working hard on behalf of our students!



## First Middle School Counselor Meet-Up! *Dr. Dymphna D. Davis, LSCA Middle School VP*

The first, middle school counselor meet-up was held during the 2019 LCA conference in New Orleans. There was representation from St. Charles Parish, St. James Parish, St. John Parish, Orleans Parish, and Jeffer-

*Article continues in next column ...*

son Parish. Each middle school counselor spoke about what they believed worked well in their parish and what could be improved. It was beautiful to hear about some of the fantastic work that is being done in the great state of Louisiana.

However, there is lots of work to be done in the area of engagement, acknowledgment, and advocacy in regards to how to best support and highlight middle school counselors across the state. The information that is gathered during the meetups is being collected and analyzed to ultimately come up with a plan of action to best support middle school counselors in the state of Louisiana.

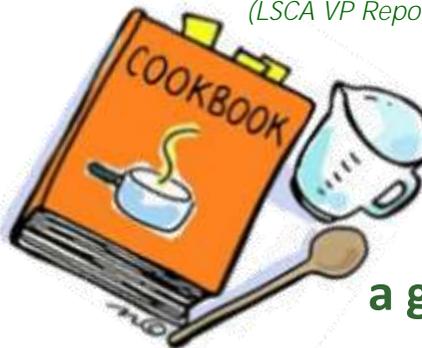
Our second middle school counselor meet-up will be held in March. The time and date will be announced via LSCA social media platforms. Middle school counselors are invited to share their thoughts on five questions:

1. What are our strengths?
2. What are our challenges?
3. What should we start doing?
4. What should we stop doing?
5. What is possible?

I am so excited to engage with each one of you! Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or if you want to volunteer. My email address is [phdddavis191307@gmail.com](mailto:phdddavis191307@gmail.com). Let's get in gear!



*(LSCA VP Reports, continued on page 6)*



**LSCA plus  
YOU makes  
a good Gumbo!**



## Reflecting on Our Impact

**Amanda Duplantier NCC, LPC,  
LSCA Secondary Vice President**

As we start the New Year, it is important to reflect back on the past year and how we have grown as a Professional School Counselor. Through our continuing education experiences we learn better practices to help our students. By participating in workshops and conferences, like the LCA Conference in New Orleans, we are able to not only attend sessions, but also reconnect with our peers. It was so great to hear from you all at the conference, and when we last spoke, we mentioned self-advocacy as an important piece needed to help others understand what High School Counselors *really* do.

With that in mind, I ask us to look to National School Counseling Week (February 3-7, 2020) and what can we do at our schools to continue this self-advocacy for our profession. If you are not familiar with what is already available, I encourage you check out the American School Counseling Association's website and the article on page 7 in this newsletter! Ample resources and ideas are posted to help us think of ways we can get the word out about the benefits of school counseling.

Let's celebrate what we have been able to accomplish in our own settings. Each day ASCA has a photo challenge with downloaded content to help you think back about what YOU do each and every day. This small, five second photo op serves as a great reflection of our past triumphs as school counselors. Participate each day, post your photos on social media and—even better—print copies of those photos and display them in your counseling office.

*Article continues in next column ...*

Let this help remind you and others day in and day out why high schools are better because of the impact school counselors have on our students and schools.



## Professional Development Opportunities Abound

**Dr. Wendy Rock, Post Secondary  
Vice President**



As the post-secondary vice-president of LSCA, I am tasked with coordinating the professional development opportunities for LSCA members. I hope everyone who attended the LCA Conference in New Orleans in September was able to take something of value away from the conference. I would love to hear your feedback regarding the LSCA track. What sessions and presenters did you enjoy? Whom do you want to hear more from in the future? What was missing that you wish had been provided? Please send any comments my way at [wendy.rock@southeastern.edu](mailto:wendy.rock@southeastern.edu).

Future opportunities for professional development include the Career Connections Conference sponsored by LCDA on January 24, 2020, at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library. Featured speakers include NCDA President-Elect Seth Hayden and LCDA President-Elect Christopher Belser. Conference sessions have been approved by the Louisiana Counseling Association and the National Board for Certified Counselors for a combined 6.0 CEU hours. The link to register is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/career-connections-conference-2020-tickets-71512914051>. The Jump Start Convention will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge on January 28, 2020. The theme is Jump Start 2.0: Modern Pathways for a Prosperous Future. Registration closed January 3<sup>rd</sup> but for more information, try

*(LSCA VP Reports, continued on page 7)*

jumpstart@la.gov at the following website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-jump-start-convention-tickets-76310222931>. The Louisiana ACT Summit: Opportunity, Growth, and Prosperity will be held March 12, 2020 at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. Check this link: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/state-and-federal-programs/state-organizations.html>. Finally, the Teacher Leader Summit will be held May 27-29 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. More information on the Teacher Leader Summit to come.

As we approach National School Counseling Week 2020, School Counselors: Helping Build Better Humans, this February 3-7, 2020, think about the unique contributions you make and the impact you have as a school counselor in helping Louisiana PK-12 students achieve academic success and plan for their future. Get ideas about how to celebrate as well as free resources on the ASCA webpage, [https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/about-asca-\(1\)/national-school-counseling-week](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/about-asca-(1)/national-school-counseling-week).

There is open access content free for download by anyone, whether you are a member of ASCA or not. There are resources available for purchase as well in case you have a school counseling budget with discounts available to members. Thank you for all you do! ✂

## 5 reasons I'm Celebrating National School Counseling Week

*[Editor's note: This is an excerpt from an article on Pinterest. It was a blog written by Jeannie Maddox, Middle School Counselor in Florida. Source: <https://exploringschoolcounseling.blogspot.com/>]*



National School Counseling Week is not about appreciation, it's about educating those around us. Here's 5 reasons why I'm participating during NSCW:

### 1) Many people STILL call us Guidance Counselors!

We are not Guidance Counselors, we are Master's degree holding counseling professionals. We are a highly trained force of Counselors, who are also educators, who help ALL students with the challenges of living in the 21st century. Whether it be homelessness, social media savvy, bullying, self-harm, anxiety, mindfulness, social and academic skills, career readiness, kindness, personal safety, splintered families, abuse, or neglect School Counselors are uniquely trained and qualified to be the first line of mental health help in our schools. So please, stop calling us "Guidance Counselors"!

### 2) No one really knows what we do.

The intense ethical responsibilities we face require you to shoulder many of the confidences alone, unless you are blessed to have additional School Counselors in your school or have things shared with you that legally require you to make a report. And because we can't really tell them (teachers/parents/administrators) what we do, NSCW is a great week to educate them about why every student deserves a School Counselor.

### 3) School Counselors around the country still have extreme ratios.

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recommends student to School Counselor ratios or 250:1. Unless you are living this ratio, we still have work to do! There is work to be done, if not for ourselves for our School Counselor colleagues!

*(Why Celebrate NSCW, continued on page 8)*

#### 4) School Counselors are still performing non-Counselor duties.

We must use this week to advocate for the appropriate role of School Counselors. It may not make a difference for you, but you are paving the way for School Counselors to come.

#### 5) You have to model how you want to be treated (perceived).

If parents and teachers don't understand the role of the School Counselor we get discouraged. ... most do not know, we have to teach them. Use this week to model for them what it means to be a School Counselor and how you would like our profession to be perceived. It's not self-promotion, it is promotion of the profession.

#### So, how will I celebrate?

To begin the week I will post the ASCA signs You can download signs from [https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/about-asca-\(1\)/national-school-counseling-week](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/about-asca-(1)/national-school-counseling-week) around the campus and each day my colleague and I are reading the ASCA blurbs on the morning announcements.

**Monday:** Donuts, coffee and juice for the faculty along with a School Counselor Trivia Game. Create a True/False sheet with 10 "facts" about the counselors and their work. Winner gets a \$5 Starbucks gift card.

**Tuesday:** Increase empathy and advocate for struggling students. We did it by sharing a poem, "Cause I Ain't Got No Pencil," written by Joshua Dickerson, a professional author

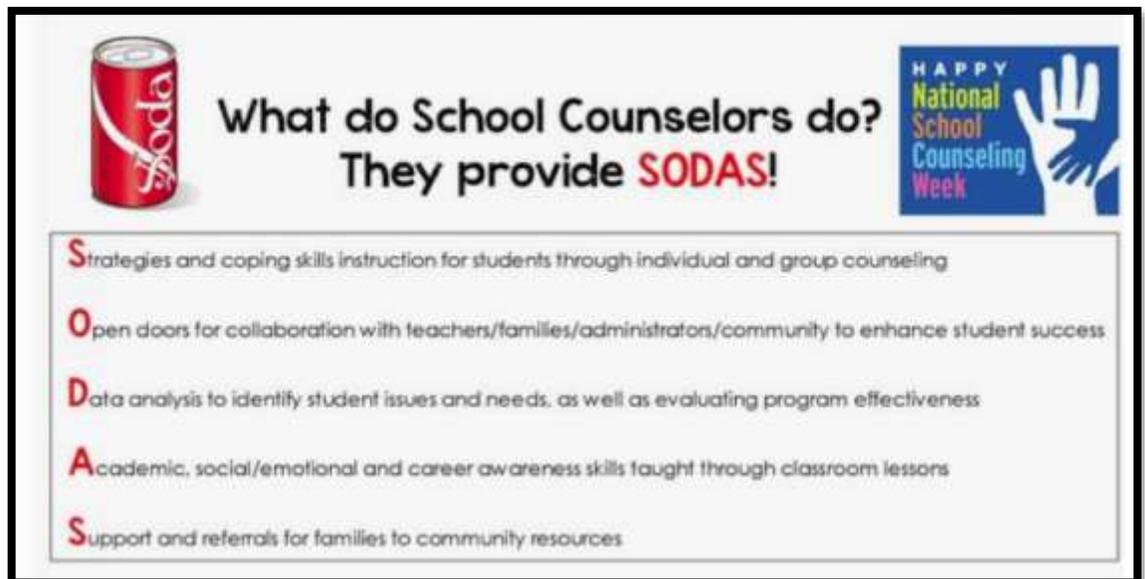
and poet. Printed the poem on a half sheet of cardstock, we affixed a new yellow pencil – we got 20 in a box for less than a dollar.

**Wednesday:** Mini flyers printed on cardstock, 4 to a page with the message: School Counselors are the heart of the school! And we taped little Hershey's chocolate hearts, 30 to a bag. Pretty cheap.

**Thursday:** Another cheesy candy reminder for teachers Reese's cups 34 in a bag, card stock, school copy machine. Cheap and done: Have I told you "Reesently" how much I enjoy being your School Counselor? We will have a Photo booth set up outside the cafeteria for students to take photos with the ASCA sign "My School Counselor helps me reach for the stars by..."

**Friday:** An old stand-by I have used before, In a "crunch," your School Counselor can help. More chocolate for teachers, card stock and the school copy machine. At lunch we will have a School Counselor "Kahoots!" the students can play with candy as prizes.

And that's it! ... Don't ignore this important professional week to promote the profession of School Counseling using the freebies on the ASCA website. Happy National School Counseling Week!



Source of artwork : <https://mtschoolcounselor.wixsite.com/kirschman> Pintrest

Article continues in next column ...

# 2020 LSCA Honorees



## Celebrating School Counselors of the Year

*Danielle Cole & Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler, Awards Co-Chairs*

Louisiana school counselors participated in an action packed weekend filled with networking with colleagues and meaningful professional development to learning about the school counseling program at Tulane University and cheering on the New Orleans Saints to victory!

A highlight of this year's Louisiana Counseling Association conference was recognizing those school counselors who have exemplified extraordinary service to the students they serve and also acknowledging someone who has served as an advocate for the school counseling profession. At the Louisiana School Counselor Association luncheon, twenty-two school counselors were celebrated for their dedication to students they work with throughout the school year. School counselors were surrounded by Mardi Gras regalia and plenty of cheers and photo opportunities as elementary, middle, and high school counselors were individually recognized by Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler and assisted by Dawn Stelly and Danielle Cole of Lafayette Parish.



*L to R: Danielle, Veronica, Alice, and Dawn*

The following school counselors were nominated for School Counselor of the Year:

### Elementary School Counselor Nominees:

- \* Lana Broussard, Live Oak Elementary School in Lafayette Parish
- \* Stephanie Choy, Kipp Morial Primary School in Orleans Charter
- \* Kristi Gassen, Perrin Early Learning Center – Tangipahoa Parish

- \* Jenny Haigler, Pinewood Elementary School – Beauregard Parish
- \* Stacey Noel, Norco Elementary School – St. Charles Parish
- \* Christianne Richard, Brownsfields Elementary School – E. Baton Rouge Parish
- \* Laura Smestad, St. Pius X Elementary School – New Orleans Diocese

### Middle School Counselor Nominees:

- \* Dana Bourgeois, Sixth Ward Middle School – Lafourche Parish
- \* Candacy Creecy Sharper, St. Amant Middle School – Ascension Parish
- \* Meghan Duplessis, Harry Hurst Middle School – St. Charles Parish
- \* Joanne Matherne, Golden Meadow Middle School – Lafourche Parish
- \* Renee North, L.J. Alleman Middle School – Lafayette Parish
- \* Vickie Wynn, W.W. Lewis Middle School – Calcasieu Parish
- \* Ellen DeCuir, Sherwood Middle School – E. Baton Rouge Parish

### High School Counselor Nominees

- \* Tracie Bordelon, Lafayette High School – Lafayette Parish
- \* Lindsay Carlino – St. Michael the Archangel Diocese – Diocesan of Baton Rouge
- \* Twana Chestand – Tioga High School – Rapides Parish
- \* Shamika Hooker – DeRidder High School – Beauregard Parish
- \* Diana Humphries – Ruston High School – Lincoln Parish
- \* Marquita Imes – Loranger High School – Tangipahoa Parish
- \* Denise Latour – 2018-19 LSCA President, Ponchartroula High School – Tangipahoa Parish
- \* Shelby Simpson – Kentwood Magnet High School – Tangipahoa Parish

*Article continues in next column ...*

*(2020 LSCA Honorees, continued on page 10)*

The winners in each category are as follows:



**Mrs. Laura Smestad, St. Pius X Elementary School in the Archdiocese of New Orleans** is the Elementary School Counselor of the Year. She has been a counselor for 5 years. She has been very busy advocating for her student

through the School Counselor Life Blog, which was created in 2015. She provides free resources to school counselors across the nation. She understands the importance of drilling down in data to understand the needs of her students. She provided small groups sessions for her 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who scored “In need of support” on the ACT Aspire. 58% of the students who participated later scored “Close to Ready or Exceeding”. She also facilitates small groups for conflict resolution. Her work continues with the teachers with her presentations on the Five Love Languages providing them with information to support their students. She serves on the administrative team and uses this as an opportunity to be a voice for her students.

the school and finally 97% reported they didn't feel they had anyone they could trust to talk about their concerns. She shared her data with her principal and was freed from many of the clerical tasks that she had been assigned to her. Her time now allows her time to begin developing a Comprehensive School Counseling Program to meet the needs of all students. She continues her efforts by implementing Bullying Prevention and an Investigation Team. She continues her efforts by implementing the Kindness Campaign.

**Mrs. Lindsay Carlino, St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge** is our High School Counselor of the Year. She has been a counselor for 8 years. She has been working with her administration



on advocating for professional school counselors and the focus of the counselors in the areas of academic, personal/social and career development. Since her administration has removed many of the non-counseling activities, she and her team are able to implement many programs to make them more visible to students and more approachable for support. Many activities are initiated at lunch time such as Meet the Counselors, Trick or Treat with the Counselors, Self-Care with the Counselors and College Application monthly meetings. She has assisted her students with calculating their cumulative and TOPS GPAs and assists the students with academic resumes that they build on each year. All freshmen are assigned to a small random group and they meet at lunch with that counselor twice a year. This has provided the students with opportunities to get to know other students. Finally, she has revised Career Day to allow the students to participate in 30 minute presentations of their choice. This has encouraged more support from the community and increase



**Mrs. Candace Sharper, St. Amant Middle School in Ascension Parish** is the Middle School Counselor of the Year. She has been a counselor for 8 years. She be-

lieves in advocating for herself and her students. At her first school, she has faced many challenges. She decided to face the challenges head on by administering a needs assessment to understand the needs of the students and the school. In her assessment, she found that 93% of the students did not feel safe and 95% believed that bullying was a big concern at

*Article continues in next column ...*

*(2020 LSCA Honorees continued on page 11)*

alumni involvement.



**Mrs. Leslie Gilliland is the School Counselor Advocate of the Year.**

This professional lady works at the Louisiana Department of Education

and is not a stranger to the counselors in Louisiana. She has reached out to the Louisiana School Counselor's Association for several years in an effort to show support and secure much needed recognition and resources for school counselors. She had created several initiatives in support of school counselors such as the School Counselor Study Group to identify strengths and weaknesses and established goals for school counselors. She has promoted National School Counseling Week through several media sources and secured a proclamation from Governor John Bel Edwards. For the second year, she has advocated for school counselors to have opportunities to present and participate in the Teacher Leader

*Article continues in next column ...*

Summit during the summer in New Orleans. Although she is not a counselor by training, she has certainly worked hard to promote school counselors and provide opportunities for them to connect with key stakeholders in the state.

**Mrs. Lindsay Carlino, St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge** is our Louisiana State Counselor of the Year who will represent Louisiana with her principal in January 2020 in Washington, D.C. We are proud of Mrs. Carlino and wish her the best as she represents the Louisiana School Counselor Association.



Just as the counselors above have been recognized for their commitment to overall student success, it is time to nominate school counselors for the 2020 School Counselor of the Year. There are numerous counselors helping to build better humans through comprehensive counseling programs across the state. If you would like to nominate a school counselor, please access [lscaschoolcounselorawards.org](https://lscaschoolcounselorawards.org). All nominations should be completed by **February 20, 2020** to allow for time to read the applications and submit the overall winner to ASCA by early May 2020. If you nominate a counselor for this prestigious honor, please let them know so they can complete the application in a timely manner. ✂



**Current LSCA President, Veronica Douglas at the LSCA Awards Luncheon recognized Denise Latour, Past LSCA President for her work in 2018-19 and Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler, who has served as either chair or co-chair of the Awards Committee for more years than anyone remembers!**

# 2020 LSCA Awards Luncheon



*Chauntreniece Davis, recipient of 2020 Graduate Student Award, volunteering as a greeter.*



*Reviewers of SCOY Nominees I to r: Katherine Taylor, Layla Green Touchet, and Tamara Keyes*



*Two Elementary School Counselor of the Year Nominees, I to r: Christianne Richard and Lana Broussard*



*Four High School Counselor of the Year Nominees, I to r: Denise Latour, Shamika Hooker, Twana Chestand, and Lindsay Carlino, who was the winner and our nominee for National School Counselor of the Year for the state of Louisiana!*



*Terri Tchorzynski, keynote speaker and 2017 National School Counselor of the Year*

*Collin Henry, ASVAB representative with Veronica Douglas, LSCA President. ASVAB's continued sponsorship of our luncheon is much appreciated by LSCA.*



*Photos at luncheon were taken by Vinetta Frie, Newsletter Editor*

Editor's Note: Thanks to YOUR active membership, the board has expanded!! If you wish to contact any member of the LSCA Leadership, simply click on the email hyperlinks below! Many of these committees are still seeking members!



## Louisiana School Counselor Association's Leadership Roster for 2019-2020



### Elected & Appointed Officers

Veronica Douglas, **President**  
[jarelle2npower@aol.com](mailto:jarelle2npower@aol.com)

Denise Latour, **Past President**  
[denise.latour@tangischools.org](mailto:denise.latour@tangischools.org)

Dr. Ariel Mitchell, **President Elect**  
[Amitch11@xula.edu](mailto:Amitch11@xula.edu)

Kesha Simmons,  
**President Elect Elect**  
[kmsimmons@caddoschools.org](mailto:kmsimmons@caddoschools.org)

Claire Barry, **Secretary**  
[chbarry@uno.edu](mailto:chbarry@uno.edu)

Pamela Radford, **Treasurer**

Vacant, **Parliamentarian**

Miriam Davis,  
**Elementary Level VP**  
[miriamdavis77@gmail.com](mailto:miriamdavis77@gmail.com)

Dr. Dymphna Davis,  
**Middle Level VP**  
[phdddavis191307@gmail.com](mailto:phdddavis191307@gmail.com)

Amanda Duplatier,  
**Secondary VP**  
[Amanda.duplantier@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.duplantier@gmail.com)

Dr. Wendy Rock,  
**Post Secondary VP**  
[Wendy.rock@selu.edu](mailto:Wendy.rock@selu.edu)

### Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

**Awards Co-Chairs:**  
Danielle Cole and  
Dr. Alice Cryer-Sumler,  
[dtcole@lpssonline.com](mailto:dtcole@lpssonline.com)  
[acryer-sumler@stcharles.k12.la.us](mailto:acryer-sumler@stcharles.k12.la.us)

Vacant, **Ethics Board and  
Professional Certification**

Pamela Radford\*, **Finance**

Chauntreniece Davis,  
**Graduate Student Rep.**

**Membership Committee:**  
Dr. Ariel Mitchell and all Vice  
Presidents

Dr. Ariel Mitchell,\*  
**Long-Range Planning**

Denise Latour, \*  
**Nominations & Elections**

Brenda Eccles,  
**Policies/Procedures/By-Laws  
and Government Relations**  
[bdeccles@lpssonline.com](mailto:bdeccles@lpssonline.com)

Dr. Wendy Rock\*,  
**Professional Development**

Veronica Douglas,\*  
**Luncheon Program**

Vinetta Frie, **Publications**  
[frienews@yahoo.com](mailto:frienews@yahoo.com)

Tara Washington,  
**Public Relations/Advocacy**  
[twashington97@ebrschools.org](mailto:twashington97@ebrschools.org)

Dr. Stephanie Eberts,  
**Research Grant & Scholarship  
Chair** [seberts@lsu.edu](mailto:seberts@lsu.edu)

Rachel Young, **Social Media**  
[Rachelyoung43@gmail.com](mailto:Rachelyoung43@gmail.com)

Leslie Lancaster, **Social Media @  
Conference**  
[LLancaster@lsdvi.org](mailto:LLancaster@lsdvi.org)

Cathy Smith,  
**Technology/Website**  
[catz80@gmail.com](mailto:catz80@gmail.com)

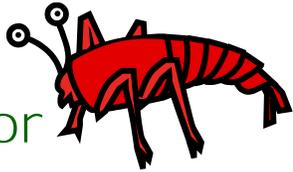
### 2020 Counselors of the Year:

Laura Smestad, Elementary

Candace Sharper, Middle

Lindsay Carlino, Secondary

\*see first column for member's contact information contact info



Rouxfus

*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 LA Counseling Association. Total LSCA membership now exceeds 650 counselors statewide.*

*Spring Submission Deadlines:*

*Feb. 24 and May 1, 2020*

*Submit articles to Vinetta Frie,  
frienews@yahoo.com*

*(please include LSCA in subject*

**We're on the Web:**

[www.louisianaschoolcounselor.org](http://www.louisianaschoolcounselor.org)

Upcoming Event

**LSCA Board Meeting**

**Saturday: February 15th**

**Woodlawn Middle @ 10 a.m.**

**Baton Rouge, LA**



Clawdette



## LSCA 2019 Election Results

*Denise Latour, Past LSCA President*

Thank you LSCA members for participating in the election held at the Fall LCA Conference. We considered an amendment to our By-Laws and candidates for President Elect-Elect, Middle Level Vice President and Post Secondary Vice President. Thank you to each LSCA member who accepted nomination to run for office in our division.

The By-Law Amendment concerned clarifying the role of the LSCA President and how to allow participation on the Leadership Board of the Louisiana Counseling Association, LCA. The amendment was recommended by our national affiliate, American School Counselor Association, ASCA. The amendment, to add the following sentence to the end of Article IV, Section 5, Duties of the Officers, subparagraph (a): ***The President shall appoint the Past-Past President of LSCA or an active non-voting LSCA board member to serve on the LCA Executive Board and fulfill the requirements of a Division President (attend Board meetings).*** The amendment was approved by you, the LSCA membership.

Dr. Dymphna D. Davis was selected to become LSCA President Elect-Elect. Mary Speed won the position of Middle Level Vice President. Dr. Stephanie Eberts will become Post-Secondary Vice President.

Each new officer will be installed at the Transitional LSCA Board Meeting later this year. ✂

## Incoming LSCA Officers



*From L to R: Dr. Dymphna Davis, Mary Speed, and Dr. Stephanie Eberts*

