



Northwest Missouri School Counselors Association

Counselors Helping Counselors

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Fall 2021

Why Join ASCA?

By Geoff Heckman

I first joined NWMSCA and MSCA in the early 2000's when I became a school counselor. I understood from my school counseling program the importance of being a part of school counselors who would support you and contribute to a collective vision and voice. It wasn't until I considered a leadership role with MSCA that I joined the American School Counselor Association, and I'm so glad I did! The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is the National association that MSCA is a charter of. Membership in ASCA offers you many benefits: connection to school counselors across the nation, professional resources and training, publications, a national set of ethics and standards for students, and a voice that represents school counselors at the National level. Additionally, ASCA hosts a national conference each year (coming to KC in 2024!) that allows you to connect with school counselors from across the country, hear a wide variety of breakout sessions, and engage with exciting keynote speakers. ASCA also has a network of online professional development opportunities that can be utilized for PD within your school setting including their DEI specialist training

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MSCA Fall Conference Scholarship Winner

By Melissa Adcock

At our recent NWMSCA Fall Meeting, I had the privilege of presenting our 2021-2022 MSCA Fall Conference Scholarship to Kaitlyn Vandivert from South Harrison Elementary School!



Mrs. Vandivert is a brand new counselor to our region and our profession. She is very excited to attend the Fall Conference to learn and absorb as much as she can to take back and share with her students and staff as she begins her career in school counseling.

Pictured are Melissa Adcock and Kaitlyn Vandivert

Past President Recognized

During the NWMSCA Fall Meeting, the Governing Board took a few minutes to recognize the Past President, Rebecca Arway.



Pictured are Tonya Bell, Angela McDaniel and Rebecca Arway.

ASCA . . .

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that is free to everyone (including non-members). While this is not all of the benefits associated with membership in ASCA, it is a part of the many opportunities that can further assist with your professional growth and experience.

My experience with ASCA membership has led me to numerous opportunities, but in the end it is because it is another professional resource that supports and equips school counselors to prepare students for success that I feel it is so worthwhile.

While I encourage you to be a member of both the regional and state school counselor associations, I also encourage you to consider a membership with ASCA as you seek to strengthen your professional network, growth, and school counseling skills. If you are interested in a membership with ASCA, feel free to contact me or visit the ASCA website: schoolcounselor.org

NWMSCA Holds Fall Meeting

Northwest region school counselors gathered at Missouri Western on October 8th to hold their annual fall meeting. The morning started off with a resource fair and a continental breakfast provided by Missouri Western State University.

The business meeting was held from 9:00-10:00. The secretary and treasurer reports were approved and the winner of the Fall Conference scholarship was announced.

It was also announced that the NWMSCA community project would be Feeding Missouri this year. If you would like to donate to the community project, please contact a governing board member or you can donate via Venmo or PayPal. Please make sure you are specifying what your donation is going towards.

After the business meeting we welcomed our guest speaker, Dr. Nuchelle Chance, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Missouri Western State University. The day concluded with lunch provided by Missouri Western State University.

Attention all Graduate Counseling Students!

By **Melissa Adcock**

If you are a graduate student working towards completion of a school counseling program, we have a scholarship for you!

The Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association (NWMSCA) Scholarship will be awarded to a graduate student who is seeking completion of certification in school counseling. All applicants must reside in the geographic area served by the NWMSCA.

Please encourage any School Counseling graduate students to apply by **February 1, 2022**.

The application forms are on our website under the application/forms tab. Or you can follow this link to find the application:

[**Graduate Student Scholarship**](#)

Send newsletter submissions to:



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MSCA Fall Conference 2021

“To the Moon and Back” is where MSCA is headed November 7-9, 2021 at Tan-Tar-A Resort for the annual MSCA Fall conference! This event is scheduled to take place in person with an option for a virtual conference experience if traveling to Tan-Tar-A is not feasible. Sunday’s keynote speaker will be Erin Jones, an educator and a champion for change. Tuesday’s closing session keynote speaker will be Darrion Cockrell, Missouri’s 2021 Teacher of the Year. Other highlights for this year’s conference includes: Trivia Night, Bingo, and a special evening event with a comedian!

Fall conferences are not only a good time to network and relax, but to learn new ideas and information to take back to our own programs. This year the workshop offerings range from helping students cope with anxiety, understanding diversity and equity among our students, ways to promote and advocate for your school counseling program and so many more! Saturday Institute provides an additional opportunity for professional development with Bryan Pearlman’s presentation in the morning and Tosha Todd’s presentation on practical strategies for helping students with anxiety in the afternoon.



Registration is still open for the conference! We hope to see you there, so we can take the opportunity for some self-care and continued learning!

Other MSCA Happenings

MSCA membership is so much more than just attending Fall Conference! Did you know being a member of MSCA brings you opportunities for professional development throughout the year? Every other Monday, MSCA shares the Monday Memo which highlights upcoming events and opportunities provided by not only MSCA but also other organizations MSCA partners. In addition, every other Wednesday, Dr. Shari Sevier, Director of Advocacy, presents Counselors, Coffee, and Conversations highlighting various topics related to the field of school counseling. At least once a month, MSCA provides a special webinar. These are just a few of the ways MSCA continuously provides professional development for school counselors throughout the state of Missouri!

If you are not a member, but interested in joining the state level school counselor association, please check out <https://moschoolcounselor.org/>.

Be involved
Be successful
Be a Bearcat

NORTHWEST
Missouri State University

nwmissouri.edu

Governing Board



More Photos from the Fall Meeting

