



Northwest Missouri School Counselors Association

Counselors Helping Counselors

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September 2015



Presidential Perspective

Laura Shelton
NWMSCA President

Be a Game Changer!

Those of us in the education field know that with the start of school there are so many new beginnings for students and staff. School counselors have their own unique set of new beginnings. New students and staff members to get to know, new relationships to develop, new schedules and routines to establish, and new opportunities to *change lives*.

This year's theme from our state association, Missouri School Counselor Association, focuses on being that change: "Game Changers – See the Vision. Inspire the Change." I am very excited about this theme, partly because I love watching sports, in particular the Kansas City Royals. In a recent interview, one of the players commented that their team is more like a family. They lift each other up when players are in a slump, and they celebrate with players when they achieve success. The coach guides the team by reminding the players of the vision for the

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SAVE THE DATE!

The NWMSCA Fall Meeting will be Friday, October 9, 2015
at Missouri Western State University

Registration/Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.

Business Meeting: 9:00 a.m.

Speaker: 10:15 a.m. (followed by lunch)

This is a great opportunity to network with fellow counselors, gain valuable PD, and be a part of the Great Northwest! Watch for more information. We hope you'll join us.

My Success Event

by Shelly Vertin and Karen Taylor, Career Guidance Co-chairs

The My Success Event is right around the corner on October 14th and 15th at Wyatt Park Church. We are looking forward to a fun-filled day with many local businesses offering career information as well as colleges and universities supplying educational information. If your school registered for the event, you should have received your time and date letter by now. There are approximately 50 high schools attending with 2,700 students, so it's very important that you arrive on time.

Please check out the website www.themysucsessevent.com for additional information. If you should have any questions regarding your school or arrival time, please contact Mary Brown at (816) 364-4102.

New Counselor Mentoring Meeting For 1st & 2nd Year Counselors and Mentors

Friday, October 9 - MWSU

Immediately following the Fall Meeting Luncheon

For questions contact:

Michele Veasey (mveasey@nwmissouri.edu)

or Lori Snead (lsnead@wnrockets.com)

Perspective . . .

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future and inspires them to be their best. If you think about it, school counselors often feel like the coach of a team – drawing out the plays, trying to find the best attributes of each individual, finding ways for everyone to work together for the common goal. We are very blessed to have such a strong region (or team) of school counselors here in the Northwest that truly does see the vision. The Northwest Region has a very strong membership and Governing Board. We continue to provide information and resources to all counselors through this very newsletter and through our two annual meetings (fall and spring) which keep us informed and give us the opportunity to lift up and celebrate the great work of our fellow colleagues. I am proud to be part of this family!



As school counselors, we have a very special opportunity to be that “game changer” for someone. Last February, I was able to attend the MSCA Take 10 Conference. One thing that really stuck with me was how our presenter stated that counselors are “a different voice” for our students. I thought about how true that is. We are not the “teacher voice” that focuses on the work they produce; we are not the “parent voice” that they often dismiss as not understanding their situation; we are not the “peer voice” that may be more focused on other things than truly listening. School counselors are in a unique position to be a different voice than any they have heard.

School counselors take time to truly listen to what their students are saying. They are trustworthy, empathetic, and supportive. They care for their students unconditionally. School counselors have their students’ best interests as their main focus. We have the ability to be the “game changer” for our students. What an awesome opportunity!

I am so thankful to be a part of such an amazing group of people. I am honored to serve as your president this year, and I am looking forward to working with this team at the local and state levels.

I wish you all a successful 2015-16 school year...and of course, “GO ROYALS”!

Be an Informed Voter – By-Law Changes Proposed

by Heidi Webster and Sarah Dudeck, By-Law Co-chairs

We hope this finds each of you enjoying your first few weeks back to school and this means cooler temperatures and fall are on the way!! During the summer NWMSCA meeting the By-Laws were reviewed. Upon further discussion, there have been a few proposed changes. The recommended changes are posted on our website for members to review prior to the fall NWMSCA meeting on October 9th. The website is: <http://www.nwmsca.org/> and the By-Law document is located on the right side of the page under President Laura Shelton’s picture. The additions are highlighted in red, while anything with a strike through are the proposed deletions. This is the first proposed change in By-Laws since 2013. During the committee reports at the fall meeting, all members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes. Please take a moment to review them and come prepared to vote! Thank you.

This newsletter sponsored by:

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Game Changer - Fall Conference 2015

by Becky Arway, Critical Incident Co-Chair

See the vision. Inspire the change. Hopefully by now you have had an opportunity to check out the conference preview for the 2015 Fall MSCA conference. Fall Conference is November 8-10, 2015 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. This year the conference project is Cherish Kids. Cherish Kids endeavors to improve the quality of life for children who find themselves displaced or orphaned. For more information check out www.cherishkids.org.

Just a few new conference additions to highlight...

The Saturday Institute will feature Dr. Tim Elmore and Dr. Robert Jason Grant.

- Opening Session keynote speaker will be Dr. Tim Elmore, renowned author and President of Growing Leaders. Dr. Elmore believes that "every kid can be a leader, because leadership is about influence."
- Closing Session keynote speaker will be Dr. C.J. Huff, Superintendent of Joplin schools.
- Dr. Norm Gysbers will be honored during a special gala event on Sunday evening. Additional fees apply to attend the event. Check out www.moschoolcounselor.org for more information.
- Poker Run: A poker run is an organized event where participants on foot must visit 5 to 7 checkpoints, drawing a playing card at each one. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the run. The Poker Run will take place during Sunday night hospitalities and cost is \$10. All proceeds will go to Cherish Kids.
- Table Reservations: Attendees will have the opportunity to contribute to the Conference Project by purchasing a reserved seat for Monday's luncheon. Reserved seats will be available for \$5 per individual. All proceeds will go to Cherish Kids. If you would like to get a group of friends together from your region, you can purchase enough seats for everyone to sit at a table. The seats will be available for purchase at the on-site registration desk on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Monday from 8:00-10:00 a.m. So get some friends together and purchase your tickets!

Early bird registration ends October 2. For more information about Fall Conference, check out <http://moschoolcounselor.org/conferences/2015-fall-conference/>

SOS Signs of Suicide Prevention Program for High Schools

The program highlights the relationship between depression and suicide, teaching that most often suicide is a fatal response to a treatable disorder-depression. The SOS program was created to assist in addressing the problems of youth depression and suicide simultaneously and age appropriately. Through the SOS program, school staff, students, and their parents will learn about depression, suicide, and the associated risks of alcohol use. SOS teaches the action steps individuals should take if they experience the signs of depression or suicide within themselves or encounter these signs in a friend with the acronym ACT: Acknowledge your friend has a problem, tell the person you Care, and Tell a trusted adult.

This training will provide an overview of the SOS program, including the student and parent/school staff components. Participants will receive the Trusted Adult training and school personnel will leave with information on how to order the program and implement it in their high school or middle school.

Want to learn more about the program before the training? Check out Screenings for Mental Health, Inc. at www.MentalHealthScreening.org and search for Middle and High School Programs.

- ✓ Please extend this invitation out to members of your Crisis Team (Counselors, Teachers, and Administrators are all welcome). A registration form will be sent out soon.
- ✓ Light snacks will also be provided before the training.

Save the DATE!!!

What: NWMSCA Critical Incident Response Training
When: Monday, Oct. 12 – Program beginning at 5:30
Where: West Platte School in the Performing Arts Center
Speaker: Corrine Allee, West Platte High School Counselor



Post-secondary Changes

by Bev Schenkel, Post-secondary Vice-President

If you work with high school students, be sure to take a few minutes to review the information below. There are some changes taking place at the high school and post-secondary levels regarding dual credit, remedial education, and college level math preparation.

1. New Dual Credit Policies go into effect January 2016. Details are available at: <https://dhe.mo.gov/policies/documents/CBHEPolicyonDualCreditJune2015.pdf>
2. New policies for “Principles of Best Practices in Remedial Education” went into effective Fall 2015. The policy outlines benchmark scores for placement into college level courses. Here is a link to the full policy. More information is available at: <https://dhe.mo.gov/policies/documents/BestPracticesinRemedialEducationPolicy.pdf>
3. MDHE is hosting a Math Summit to explore best practice in General Education math curriculum. One model that is being reviewed is a co-requisite model in which all students are enrolled in college level math. Students whose show deficiencies in their math skills will also enroll in a study skills course to support their work in the math course. A second model that is also being reviewed is to offer multiple math pathways based on the students undergraduate major. More information about the Math Summit is available at: <https://dhe.mo.gov/news/MissouriMathematicsSummit.php>

Scholarship Opportunity for First-time MSCA Fall Conference Attendees

Are you a school counselor with 5 or fewer years of experience? Do you want to attend the MSCA Fall Conference, but you have never been and you need financial assistance to make that happen? The NWMSCA can help you! First-time conference attendees who have been a school counselor for 5 years or less can apply for a \$100 scholarship to help pay for your conference registration. **Please check the website at www.nwmzca.org for the application. The deadline is September 25** (Early bird registration deadline for the conference is October 2). It is a fantastic professional development experience for school counselors...you don't want to miss it!

Human Rights Project: Chance to Win a Prize!

by Laura Shelton, NWMSCA President

Prizes! Who doesn't love prizes??

When you come to the NWMSCA Fall Meeting on October 9, you could be entered in a drawing for a wonderful prize! All you have to do to enter is bring a board game to donate to our conference project **Cherish Kids**. Just bring your game with you and drop it off once you register for the meeting. There will be a table set up to take the donations and enter your name for the prize. Of course, there are also door prizes that are donated each year by some fabulous sponsors that you have a chance to win. Just another great reason to be sure to attend the fall meeting – hope to see you there!

Looking for Retired NWMSCA Counselors

Do you know a counselor from NW Missouri who has decided to hang up his/her many hats?

**Please give their names to
the NWMSCA Emeritus**

Co-chairs,

Sandy White:

slwhite_64429@yahoo.com

or

Debbie Fite:

debbie.fite@sjsd.k12.mo.us

We want to help our retired counselors learn about the many benefits of staying active in NWMSCA as emeritus counselors.

NWMSCA Fall Meeting: A Presentation You Won't Want to Miss!

by Becky Houtchens, President-Elect/Programs Chair

The program for our Oct. 9 Fall Regional meeting, *Using Data to Enhance and Advocate for Your School Counseling Program*, will be presented by Dr. Sharon (Shari) Sevier.

Shari has worked at every level as a school counselor. She spent nine years as the Director of Guidance and Counseling for the Rockwood School District in Eureka, Missouri. During that time, the district's guidance and counseling program became fully implemented, and won the prestigious Gysbers Award from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Shari received MSCA Director of the Year Award, and she was honored by the National Association for School Counseling Advocacy (NOSCA) with their award for creating a college-going culture. Shari also received the Progressive Youth Association's Education Award for the St. Louis area; this award was given for Shari's work in the area of suicide prevention in today's youth.

Shari has been a very active member of the governing board of the MSCA. She has served in numerous positions, including as president. She now serves as the Government Relations chair and also is the Professional Recognition Chair. Shari has served on the ASCA Board as the vice-president of directors and supervisors of school counselors, as Assistant Chair of the Board, and she has served two terms as Chair of the Board of Directors for the American School Counselor Association.

Shari is a highly sought-after speaker across the state and nationally. She focuses on practical strategies for creating efficient and effective school counseling programs. Three years ago, the United States Department of State invited Shari to take part in its Cultural Exchange program. She traveled to Azerbaijan where she presented to teachers and students across the country on the topic of career education. For the past year, Shari has been working with NBC as an expert for their Parent Toolkit. She has written a number of popular blogs for them, and has done a TwitterChat for Education Nation. Shari is a fierce advocate for school counseling programs; it is clear that her passion is the school counseling field and the benefits it provides for students.



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September Governing Board Meeting

