

GSCA 2023 Conference

Event Schedule

Wed, Nov 01, 2023

8:30 AM

Check-in for for Pre-Conference Session Attendees Only

🕒 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM, Nov 1

📍 Registration

Only those attending a Pre-Conference session will be checked in at this time. All other attendees will check in starting at 10:15

Coffee Break for Pre-Conference Attendees

🕒 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, Nov 1

📍 Plaza Prefunction

T-shirt pick up

🕒 8:30 AM - 3:15 PM, Nov 1

📍 Moody

9:00 AM

Pre-Conference Session - Ethics

🕒 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Nov 1

📍 Lamar A (150) (Capacity 150)

PC: Ethics

Counselors who work with minors in schools must negotiate the competing interests of the school environment, student's need for confidentiality and the legal rights of parents to be the guiding voice in their children's lives. Updates on these competing interests will be discussed through court rulings and the new 2022 ASCA Ethical Standards. Legal rulings and ethical practice will be highlighted in areas such as confidentiality, academic advising, child abuse, educational records, sexual harassment, first amendment rights, and transgender youth to name a few. Particular attention will be given to recent changes in federal, case, and Georgia state laws to facilitate participants' legal literacy and provide guiding principles to support best ethical practice.

Certifications of completion will be distributed to members at the end of this 6-hour pre-conference session.

🗣️ Speaker



Carolyn Stone
Professor University Of North Florida

Pre-Conference Session - Restorative Practices

🕒 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Nov 1

📍 Estes A (capacity 200)

PC: Restorative Pra...

We learn through relationships to value, understand, practice, and build crucial life skills of working together, providing support, critically challenging one another, and fostering each other's individual development, as well as the well-being of the community. Restorative practices in schools focus on cultivating relationships, which result in a positive, respectful, and inclusive school environment. Incorporating restorative practices into a comprehensive school counseling program empowers school counselors to lead the work in achieving this ideal status.

In this interactive learning experience, participants will learn the fundamental theory and practices of restorative practices for engaging with students, staff, and parents while addressing students' needs within the multi-tiered system of support. Participants will have multiple opportunities to practice a new skill set and leave with ready to use resources for creating a positive learning environment, building social capital, and resolving relational issues.

🔊 Speakers



Heather Alvira

Coordinator- Office of Counseling, College and Career Services
Gwinnett County Public Schools



Demetria Williams

Gwinnett County School District



Kimberly Geer

Gwinnett County School District

Pre-Conference Session - Conflict Resilience

🕒 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Nov 1

📍 Estes B (capacity 200)

PC: Conflict Resil...

Increase your capacity to be conflict resilient by learning practical mediator skills. Learn about your own personal conflict style and conflict-management techniques you can use in your school (and with parents) to navigate conflict more confidently. Session provided by mediators registered with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

🔊 Speakers



Chiquetta Thompson

Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire, Inc.



Lee Robbins

Director of Operations/Deputy Director
The Mediation Center Of The Coastal Empire

10:15 AM

Registration/Check-in Desk Open

🕒 10:15 AM - 5:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Registration

10:30 AM

Exhibits Open

🕒 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Olmstead A

This year's Exhibitor Trade Show floor will be bursting with activity! Come ready to meet a lot of colleagues, and exchange many ideas! Meet the Candidates running for Office for 2023/2024.

12:30 PM

The Georgia Apex Program: A Collaborative, Strength-Based Model for School-

Based Mental Health

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Cumming (Capacity 70)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

The Georgia Apex Program illustrates the importance of community, parent, and school engagement in implementing a successful three-tiered model of school-based mental health. The Apex approach builds on communities' and schools' existing strengths, such as community service boards, school counselors, parents, and school administration. This research-backed model has been successfully implemented in 700+ schools in Georgia under the Apex program. This presentation walks attendees through the why, what, and how of this collaborative, strength-based model.

🗨️ Speakers



Lauren Stites

Senior Research Associate
Georgia Health Policy Center



Annelise Gilmer-Hughes

Research Associate II, Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health
Georgia Health Policy Center



Sally Shin

Research Associate
Georgia Health Policy Center



Layla Fitzgerald

GA Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

The Powerful Impact of School Wide Counseling Activities

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

As a school counselor, our goal is to support the academic, social, and emotional growth of all students. One way to achieve this is by using school-wide activities to create a positive school culture and improve motivation and student achievement. By involving the entire school community in these activities, we can create a supportive and engaging environment that fosters student success.

🗨️ Speaker



Genvieve Stephenson

Where Do I Begin? The Journey to RAMP Begins with Implementing a Comprehensive School Counseling Program

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Lamar B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

The RAMP application process is the culmination of successfully implementing the ASCA National Model framework which demonstrates improved student outcomes in the school counseling program. Schools considering seeking the RAMP designation are encouraged to attend this session to determine when and how to apply. This session will cover steps to implementing a comprehensive school counseling program and beginning the RAMP application journey.

Speaker



Gail Smith
School Counselor Consultant

Navigating Power Dynamics in Student Advocacy: Empowering Students

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Lamar C (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

There has been growing recognition of the power differentials in student advocacy. While some students have access to resources and support that enable them to advocate for their needs effectively, others may not have the same advantages. Due to systemic biases and discrimination, students from marginalized backgrounds may face unique challenges in advocating for themselves. This presentation explores these power dynamics and provides practical strategies for counselors to bridge the communication between teachers and students.

Speaker



Cedric Cooks
Norcross High School

N.B.A. Not Being Absent school wide and targeted attendance program

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Counselors are tasked to support attendance and negative effects of absenteeism are well documented. However, counselors have little training or resources to impact change in this area. Affecting attendance is a challenge due to little parental support. With COVID-19, attitudes, viewpoints, and routines for attendance changed, making impacting attendance more difficult. Learn to garner support from administration and implement a school-wide and targeted attendance program. Leave with ideas and resources to implement in your school.

Speaker



Nicole Moody
School Counselor
Sycamore Elementary School

Changes to the FAFSA are impacting things beyond the financial aid office: are you ready?

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

The U.S. Department of Education has overhauled the FAFSA to an extent we haven't seen in a generation, and its impacts will be felt well beyond the financial aid office. Join Sallie Mae and a panel of college, state agency and counseling professionals to give an overview of the changes, how they may impact students, and how high school counseling and admission offices are communicating the changes and adapting to ensure a positive student experience.

🗣️ Speakers



Kelly Savoie

Director, Assistant Region Head South
Sallie Mae



Mendi Morrow

GSFC



Christy Conley

Professional School Counselor
North Oconee High School



Debra Turner

Augusta University

Community Gatherings Through a Restorative Lens

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe D (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Delivery of whole-group counseling instruction requires school counselors to enter existing classroom cultures established by the teacher of record. In this session, participants will learn a "community gathering" strategy utilizing combined training in small group counseling, restorative practices, and social emotional learning. Come learn how class cultures are transformed the minute the school counselor walks in the door.

🗣️ Speaker



Maegan Mellick

Atlanta Public Schools

Somebody Save My Starfish!!!

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

We all have days when we feel worn out...burned out...overwhelmed and just plain frustrated!! This experiential workshop will provide activities and skills to help you hit PAUSE! Through whole group and small group exercises you will learn how to regulate your emotions so you can talk the talk and walk the walk.

🗣️ Speaker



Dianne Andree

Educational Consultant

Student Well-being Intervention: The Best Thing I have Done

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

The stats are alarming, and our experiences agree. Students need support with reducing anxiety, increasing happiness, and learning how to flourish. This program explores an intervention done several times this past year and summer using the Yale Science of Well-being course. Students increased in well-being based on pre/post measures. We'll discuss formats (lessons, group, virtual) and practical strategies. It is free, flexible and the most meaningful thing I have been able to do in while.

👤 **Speaker**



Ken Jackson

Counselor
Decatur High School

Making a Difference by Creating a Comprehensive Guide and Lesson Bank

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Walsh (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

As a leader, how do you get your school or district on board with appropriate duties for a school counselor? You make sure everything is clearly spelled out in a comprehensive school counseling guidebook. Then you create classroom lessons for each grade level that support the guide and the standards that have been included.

👤 **Speakers**



Melisa Marsh

Supervisor of School Counseling, Advisement, and Crisis Response
Cobb County School District



Patty DaSilva

Cobb County Schools



Barbara Truluck

Middle School Counseling Consultant
Cobb County School District



Lindsay Williams

Elementary Counseling & Advisement Consultant
Cobb County School District

Change the Anxiety Conversation

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

How can you make a comprehensive change in addressing student anxiety? Examine some of the most used interventions and why many may do more harm than good. Discover alternative, more effective strategies to directly impact students using parent book groups and professional development. Examine your own reactions to anxiety and how these influence attempted interventions and the students you serve. Walk away with plans to implement both parent and educator book studies.

🗨️ Speakers



LeAnne Hale
Oconee County Schools



Cindy Murphy
Grand Canyon University & Private Practice

New Comers/First Timers

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Welcome to the 2023 GSCA conference! I am so excited that you have decided to attend the GSCA conference in Augusta. If this is your first conference, come and learn how to make the most of your time while at conference, meet some new friends, have some of your questions answered and learn a little about GSCA. You may even laugh a little, too!

🗨️ Speaker



Brent Henderson, PhD, LPC, NCC, NCSC
P/T Counselor Educator & Retired School Counselor

1:45 PM

Easy DBT: Building Resilience and Emotional Regulation in Students

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Cumming (Capacity 70)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

The ultimate goal of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) is to help increase resilience in individuals through changing behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and interpersonal patterns that cause problems in their daily life. In this session you will learn the basic skills of implementing DBT into your day-to-day routine as a professional school counselor through an engaging, hands on approach!

🗨️ Speaker



Marie Papini
Marietta City Schools

BigFuture Scholarships: Expanding Opportunities for All

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

BigFuture rewards students with scholarships for doing what they already are doing: planning for life after high school. There are no essay, minimum GPA, test score, or citizenship requirements. By completing college and career planning steps, students have chances to win one of hundreds of \$500 scholarships or one of two \$40,000 scholarships awarded every month. Join this session to learn how your students can become eligible to win a BigFuture Scholarship!

Speakers



Aurelia Moss
Retired School Counselor



Francene Breakfield
Lead Counselor
Rockdale County High School

Counselors Making a Difference as Agents of Change

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Lamar B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Advocacy is critical to removing barriers to student success. This fun, energetic, and engaging presentation will explore school counselors as dynamic agents of change who help schools close achievement gaps and prepare students for life after high school. Exploration and discussion will focus on diversity and how school counselors can creatively support students' academic, career, and social needs.

Speaker



Teshia Stovall Dula
GSCA/Athens2021

Addressing Trauma Among K-12 Students: Strategies from a Social Justice Framework

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Lamar C (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

Many k-12 students experience trauma prior to entering kindergarten. A variety of experiences ranging from domestic violence and abuse to natural disasters and racism can lead to symptoms of trauma. This session will focus on understanding symptoms of childhood trauma and its impacts on the academic, social/emotional, and career development of students. School counselor strategies and interventions for addressing trauma from within a social justice framework will be explored.

Speaker



Tylon Crook
Sacred Heart University

Dear HBCU: Creating Opportunities for First-Generation and Low-Income Students to attend HBCUs

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

This presentation aims to address the unique challenges faced by first-generation and low-income (FGLI) students in accessing higher education, particularly Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). We will explore strategies to increase opportunities/support and discuss the role of school counselors in guiding these students towards HBCUs. Attendees will gain insights into innovative practices, resources, and partnerships that can empower first-gen low-income (FGLI) students to pursue and attend HBCUs, which could be life changing.

🗣️ Speaker



Christina Brantley
Student
Clark Atlanta University

Harnessing the Power of Student Voice

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

If heard and harnessed appropriately, student voice can be a powerful piece of data that informs academic success, emotional development, social climate and cultural responsiveness in school. In this session, learn how to provide space and opportunities for students to share their experiences, perspectives, and ideas to enhance school equity, culture, classroom support, and school wide practices.

🗣️ Speaker



Laura Ross
Five Forks Middle School

Counselor & Administrator Collaboration

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: School Administrator

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

While Counselors and Administrators work side-by-side within a school to support students, they do so in many different ways. Often, both find that the other group just doesn't understand where they are coming from when decisions are made that impact students. This presentation will address understanding these different roles, and finding the best practices for working together as a team to better support students.

🗣️ Speakers



Dr. Alan Daws
Director of Advising & Counseling
PAULDING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Amanda Summers
Coordinator of Prevention and Intervention
Paulding County School District

Easing the transition of students with disabilities into college

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe D (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Parents and students are often surprised by the changes in disability services when they leave high school and go into college. Laws are different and the college won't do as much to monitor or support the student. The student will have to take on more responsibilities to advocate for themselves.

Speaker



Katrina Steele
Thomas University

Tips/Tricks for Running a Smooth and Effective Classroom Lesson

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe E (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Participants in this session will learn how to manage students and run an effective classroom guidance lesson. The first priority when teaching a lesson is to engage all students so that you are able to get your message across. Counselors are called to teach in every classroom as well as help with behavior problems. The participant will learn strategies to remain calm and diffuse a situation so that instruction can continue and disruptions are minimized.

Speaker



Cheryl Zettler
Retired Educator

Show Me the Money: Fundraising for your Counseling Budget

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

Need money for your counselor budget? This session will provide you with practical ways to raise funds to increase your counselor budget so that you can provide MORE incentives, rewards, recognition, supplies, materials and MORE for your students.

Speaker



Charlemagne Stallings
Gwinnett County School District

How to Build a Suicide Safer School & Local Community

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Prior to pandemic times, research showed an increase in suicide ideation/behaviors. It has only increased as a result of the pandemic and social/political unrest and has been exacerbated by social isolation. Learn about how to imbed the world's leading suicide prevention model into your district's policies and counseling practices. Going further, learn about how to reach outside the walls of the school to build a wide network for a suicide safer community. FOR a sneak peek, see the article by Dr. Jones in the Sept/Oct ASCA School Counselor Magazine.

Speakers



Kimberly Jones
City Schools of Decatur



Jacob Dreiling
Student Center Therapist, Play Therapist, & Certified AutPlay Therapist
City Schools of Decatur

Sketch Notes: Rewriting the Way School Counselors Help Students Academically

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

From cavemen to Hieroglyphics, humans have used visuals to communicate and record information. Along the way, we replaced visuals with written and verbal communication. Is it effective? Let's return to kindergarten basics by learning how visual note-taking increases retention and understanding of difficult concepts. Transform how students receive and store information by teaching them how to sketch note. No artistic abilities are required, but you'll leave with confidence in your new skill of visual note-taking.

Speaker



Beth Ruff
Professional School Counselor
Powder Springs Elementary School

University System of Georgia Resources and Updates 2023

🕒 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM, Nov 1

📍 Walsh (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

With 26 colleges and universities across the state, the University System of Georgia (USG) provides a wide range of opportunities for students to participate in dual enrollment while in high school and to continue their education after high school graduation. Join this session to learn more about the University System and the resources designed to help students explore and pursue their postsecondary options in Georgia.

Speaker



Sarah Wenham
Director, Student Enrollment Services
University System of GA

3:00 PM

Opening General Session

🕒 3:00 PM - 4:50 PM, Nov 1

📍 Olmstead B

General Sess...

Neighbor Up: Creating Cultures of Honor

We can cultivate spaces and paradigms of engagement in which honor is pervasive and not dependent on hierarchy. This presentation highlights key ways to make those spaces and paradigms realities and some of the tangible, measurable, and relational outcomes of doing so.

Speaker



Vonnetta L West
Principal Owner
Go West Consulting LLC

4:15 PM

T-shirt pick up

🕒 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM, Nov 1
📍 Moody

5:00 PM

President's Reception

🕒 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM, Nov 1
📍 Olmstead A

[Social Eve...](#)

7:00 PM

Leadership Team & PPAC Dinner (Invite Only)

🕒 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Nov 1
📍 Estes B (capacity 200) (Capacity 200)

[Social Eve...](#)

Buffet Dinner:

Choice of (Pre-Selected in RSVP): Honey-ginger glazed salmon, Seared breast of chicken with white wine sauce, Vegetable Lasagna

Assorted rolls and butter, Seasonal greens salad, Seasonal vegetables, Au gratin potatoes

Assorted Desserts

Thu, Nov 02, 2023

6:45 AM

ARMY National Guard Boot Camp

🕒 6:45 AM - 7:30 AM, Nov 2
📍 Level 2 Prefunction

[Social Eve...](#)

The Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) System is the Army's primary investment in Soldier readiness and lethality, optimal physical and non-physical performance, reduced injury rates, improved rehabilitation after injury and increased overall effectiveness of the Total Army. The system empowers and equips Soldiers to take charge of their health, fitness, and well-being in order to optimize individual performance, while preventing injury and disease. Join our instructor as he leads your day with some light stretching and preparation drills.

Yoga

🕒 6:45 AM - 7:30 AM, Nov 2
📍 Plaza Prefunction

[Social Eve...](#)

As school based mental health professionals, it is important to take time for self care.

During the conference please consider some "zen" time.

New to yoga? That is ok! This class will be a slow flow with a focus on stretching and restoring the mind and body. Many options will be available for various leveled yogis! See you on your mat, or towel or blanket to sit on at GSCA 2023!

8:00 AM

Registration/Check-in Desk Open

🕒 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Registration

T-shirt pick up

🕒 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Registration

Exhibits Open

🕒 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

Grab & Go Breakfast + Coffee; Breakfast Breakouts

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

Journey to RAMP Q&A

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

Affinity Meetings - Charter/Independent Schools

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

Affinity Meetings - Grad Students

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

Affinity Meetings -New Counselors

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

Affinity Meetings - Male Counselors

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

Affinity Meetings - Rural Counselors

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

8:30 AM

Exhibitor Check-in

🕒 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead A

9:15 AM

Promoting S.M.A.R.T. Behaviors

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Cumming (Capacity 70)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Social media usage has steadily increased over the last decade among adolescents. Unfortunately, the consequences are also growing and becoming a source of concern in the learning environment. School counselors should become savvy by implementing a SMART Initiative (Social Media Activities Revolving Teens). School counselors can reveal the different social media apps utilized amongst teens, impart strategies through social/emotional planning, and educate stakeholders on the dangers and preventative measures for inappropriate social media behavior.

Speaker



Albrina Burger

School Counselor
Cartersville High School

Drum Circles for ALL!

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Estes A (capacity 200)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Think you need talent to facilitate a drum circle? Think again! You will learn basic beats and put them into action as soon as you get back to your building. Why drumming? This ancient ritual regulates our body and mind regardless of age, skill level, and degree of participation. Curious? Come by and get your drum on!

Speaker



Margaret Burgess-Wright

School Counselor
Sawyer Road Elementary

Breaking the Silence: Advocating for Accessible Mental Health Services.

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Mental health has become a global concern, affecting individuals from all walks of life. Come with me as I share one rural school district's journey in advocacy to enhance access to mental health services for their students and families. By advocating for accessible mental health services in the school district, we are bridging the gap and addressing barriers to make a difference in the lives of our students.

Speaker



Jessica DeBarry

Lead School Counselor
McIntosh County School District

I Will Survive: Managing Work, Life, and Graduate Education

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar A (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

If you are considering pursuing an EdS or Doctoral degree in counseling, this session is for you. Learn from practicing school counselors who are juggling the demands of work, a full-time graduate program, family, and life, and learn strategies on how they manage it all.

🗣️ Speakers



Ashley Cosby
Professional School Counselor
Fulton County Schools



Jhamarcus Pharaoh
Professional School Counselor
Clarke County School District

The Contemporary and The Classic: Perspectives on Making a Difference in the Lives of Students from a Brand New School Counselor and a Veteran School Counselor

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

From “Where do I begin?” to “How do I keep things fresh and relevant?”, learn from these two perspectives ways to organize your program, tips for working with students in all settings with take aways such as having a notebook of session plans, program development, and assessment of your program. Presenters will provide detailed information on structuring your yearly program, using data to show student growth and development, and how to advocate for your program.

🗣️ Speakers



Sydney Neese
North Jackson Elementary School



Tina Neese
Centennial Arts Academy

How to Make a Difference with Stories, Games, and Coloring

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar C (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

School counselors make a difference in students' lives! They are mindful of how they help, advocate, and influence student success. This fun, energetic, and engaging presentation will explore stories, games, and other tools that will be helpful with individual students, small group sessions, and classroom lessons! The discussion and activities will focus on how school counselors can creatively support students' academic, career, and social needs. Participants will leave with ideas they can implement right away!

🗣️ Speaker



Teshia Stovall Dula
GSCA/Athens2021

Starting from Scratch: Setting Up for Success

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: Tips and Technology

Whether you are fresh out of your graduate program, a seasoned practitioner moving to another school, or you are just looking to freshen up your existing program, starting a new comprehensive school counseling program can be quite daunting! In this session, participants will receive tips and tricks for starting from scratch, and how to set up for success starting DAY 1!

🗨️ Speaker



Maegan Mellick
Atlanta Public Schools

Creating an Advisement Program for Immigrant Students

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

A comprehensive advisement program is important for all students, but is critically important for students in the margins such as recently arrived immigrant students. This session will introduce an advisement program for recently arrived immigrant students in high school. Presenters will discuss unique needs of recently arrived immigrant students, importance of an inclusive and comprehensive advisement program, and share resources for attendees.

🗨️ Speakers



Monica Quinones
School Counselor
Clarke County School District



Christina Cotsakis Cordón
School Counselor
Clarke County School District

LGBTQ+ Empowerment Intervention

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1J2m-IMiTLmhJXqpuDnuTC0HMi_uQwfXc/edit?usp=share_link&oid=104506388982886700296&rtpof=true&sd=true

The Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling Competencies urges that all persons have the potential to live a fully functioning, emotionally healthy life. High school experiences are stunting LGBTQ+ youth's potential; they experience higher levels of victimization, resulting in a disconnect from their school community, poor academic performance, and decreased desire for post-secondary education. School Counselors are uniquely positioned to address this vulnerability through individualized college and career readiness activities.

🗨️ Speaker



Denise Hawkins
Professional School Counselor/Counselor Education & Supervision Doctoral Student - 2nd year
University Of Georgia

6th Annual: Fresh Ideas for Elementary Counselors That Keep Students (And Counselors) Excited!

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe D (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Being an elementary school counselor is supposed to be fun, right? Yes, we must collect and disaggregate data, call DFACS, and sometimes serve as proctors. However, we got into this profession because we love kids and know that to engage learning we need to keep their attention. This session is presented by six experienced elementary school counselors excited to share their latest and greatest FUN tools and techniques that are guaranteed to work with students.

Speakers



Virginia Wages

Arcado Elementary School



Robin Zorn

School Counselor
Mason Elementary



Merrill Baxley

Gwinnett County School District



Lauren Butler

School Counselor
Gwinnett County Public Schools



Laura Spencer

School Counselor
Gwinnett County Public Schools



Michele Brown

Knight Elementary School

The Room Where it Happened: Creatively Advocating for Your School Counseling Program

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe E (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Tips and Technology

Advocating for your comprehensive school counseling program and gaining administrator and staff buy-in can be daunting. Decisions that impact your program can be made without counselor consideration or feedback. Channel your inner “Hamilton (Capacity 100)” and get in the “rooms where it happens,” as two school counselors share how they increased support of their program through data, food, and fun.

Speakers



Beth Ruff

Professional School Counselor
Powder Springs Elementary School



LaShawn Thomas

Powder Springs Elementary School

Healing Brushes

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Although the arts can be viewed as simply an outlet for students, many are unaware of its inconspicuous benefits. The arts can improve students' communication and problem-solving skills, collaboration, and overall increase confidence. In my presentation, I will discuss how the arts can benefit students' academic achievement, self-esteem, social-emotional learning, and creativity. The attendees will understand how the arts positively correlate with students' performance using research, teachers' and students' anecdotes, and data.

Speaker



Cheryl Chew-Render

Clayton County Public Schools

Georgia Degrees Pay: USG's One-Stop Website for College Affordability and Value

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

The USG Georgia Degrees Pay website provides a number of online tools that make it easy for students to research and compare the USG colleges and universities. The Cost of Attendance, Your Future Earnings, and Student Success by Institution comparison tools provide information that help students make informed postsecondary decisions. Join us to learn more about these powerful tools and how they can help your students research their postsecondary options.

Speaker



Sarah Wenham

Director, Student Enrollment Services
University System of GA

Addressing Disproportionality of African Americans in Special Education

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

While African American students make up just under 15% of the K-12 school population, they account for more than 20% of the special education population. Learn how to address this disproportionality of minority students in special education as a school counselor or school counselor educator by being an agent of change.

Speaker



Tiffany Dorsey

School Counselor
Fulton County Schools

Is a Doctoral Degree for Me?

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Walsh (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Career Advancement

Many school counselor advance their skills and knowledge with a doctoral degree. Knowing what kind of doctoral degree and programs are out there can be confusing. Going to the right program to get the kind of degree you want is important when it comes to having the options you want after graduation. We'll cover all of the above and share our varied backgrounds and experiences too!

🗣️ Speakers



Erin Mason
Georgia State University



Chon Hester
Henry County School District



Mirna Wynn
School Counselor
Hillgrove High School



Dr. Bobby Gueh
Clinical Assistant Professor
Georgia State University

10:30 AM

Membership Assembly

🕒 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 2

📍 Olmstead B

General Sess...

11:30 AM

Unlearning Early Messages of Bias

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Cumming (Capacity 70)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

We receive messages of stereotypes and assumptions at an early age. This session will focus on what those early messages are and where they come from. Participants will have an opportunity to identify experiences that have consciously and unconsciously shaped their identities, assumptions about others and people in their world view. Participants will also reflect on how we can unlearn those messages in order to reduce the impact of bias on our students and communities.

🗣️ Speaker



Erin Beacham
Founder/ ACTivator
ACT Consulting LLC

Engage Your Students: How to Use Collaborative Instructional Strategies that Spark Learning and Fun

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Estes A (capacity 200)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Engaging instructional strategies are essential for school counselors who want to deliver interactive and meaningful lessons to their students. In this workshop, participants will learn how to identify, select, adapt, implement, and evaluate engaging instructional strategies that operationalize the ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success. This workshop will provide participants with a toolkit of engaging instructional strategies that they can use in their lessons to enhance student learning and engagement.

🗨️ Speakers



Dawn Mann

Founder and Chief Operating Officer
New Dawn Training Solutions



Maegan Mellick

Atlanta Public Schools

Restorative Practices Changes Lives

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Restorative Practices is a relationship-focused approach that maximizes student motivation and learning, repairs harm, and restores relationships. Student and staff lives can be changed inside the school environment and outside.

Have you ever wanted to bring sustainable positive change when problem solving with others? Students or your own families? Then learning and implementing restorative practices is a mindset and approach that will bring that positive change to your life and the lives of others.

🗨️ Speaker



Beth Parker

School Counselor
Cobb County School District

Hold Up! Wait a Minute! This Community Mental Health Counselor is Taking Over My Job!

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

Is there a need for mental health services in your school? Have clinical mental health counselors been introduced in your building yet seem detached from you and your environment? Join this interactive session as we explore how school counselors and community mental health counselors can collaborate to contribute to student success in the school environment. Build a toolkit through a case scenario that identifies the roles, interventions, and strategies necessary to sustain this growing partnership.

🗨️ Speakers



Katrina Wilson

School Counselor
Pine Street Elementary School



Asiha Dollar

Rockdale County Public Schools

Small Groups with a side of STE(A)M

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar C (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Intermediate Counselors (5-10 years)

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Looking for ways to increase engagement within your small group counseling sessions? You will leave this session with ready-to-use resources to integrate grade appropriate STE(A)M into small groups. Scholars will have a chance to preview or review vocabulary while practicing skills from their academic setting to build social/emotional competencies. Best of all, this visual and kinesthetic approach will help students remember what they learned so they can apply it later.

🗣️ **Speaker**



Jennifer Wilson
University of West Alabama

Exploring the Effectiveness of Play Therapy

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

"Exploring Effective Play Therapy is a counseling workshop designed to bring awareness to the Theoretical Model of Play Therapy. Counselors will have the opportunity to examine the use of play therapy and its benefits in helping students impacted by trauma or psychological issues express their feelings easily through play as an alternative to traditional talk therapies.

🗣️ **Speakers**



Lavette Oldham
Head Counselor
Freedom Middle School (DeKalb)



Kea Watson
DeKalb County School District, Freedom Middle School

A Starfish Approach to Advocacy: Making a Difference in the Lives of Students

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

This session focuses on a comprehensive advocacy approach, which, like the starfish, has five "arms" (stakeholder groups) that impact students' lives. Participants will learn advocacy strategies for addressing students' needs at the building, community, district, state, and national levels.

🗣️ **Speaker**



Gail Smith
School Counselor Consultant

School Counselors as LPCs: A Win/Win Scenario

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Nearing Retirement/Retired

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

Have you thought about obtaining your license to become a Licensed Professional Counselor in GA? There is a high demand for counseling services for children and adolescents, and school counselors are uniquely qualified to help meet this need. This session will discuss the process to become an LPC and open a private practice. The benefits of clinical supervision while adding a “side job” will be discussed along with transitioning to private practice after retirement.

🗣️ **Speaker**



Cindy Murphy

Grand Canyon University & Private Practice

Ruling Our Experiences

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe D (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Learn about how your girls can start to RULE their EXPERIENCES. Ruling our experiences is an organization that helps cultivate and mold young girls to rule their experiences. At Myers Middle, we have implemented ROX with the implementation of girl's index and mentorship.

🗣️ **Speaker**



Gabrielle Brundidge

Savannah-Chatham County School District

Middle Level Students and Self-Injury: Dialectical Behavior Therapy Interventions

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe E (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Intermediate Counselors (5-10 years)

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Self-injury is a common, destructive, and alarming behavior among adolescents. Marsha Linehan's Dialectical Behavior Therapy provides techniques that allow counselors to address this phenomenon in a safe and clinically supportive manner. Understanding the psychology of self-injury and basic (DBT) strategies can help school counselors differentiate self-injury from suicidal ideation, address self-injury in a supportive and direct manner, and help prevent future self injury in students.

🗣️ **Speaker**



Alexandra Pajak

Sandy Springs Therapy

SCUTA Tips and Tricks for GSCA Counselors

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Tips and Technology

Are you having trouble tracking all the tasks you do daily? Are you tracking them, but must create your own separate graphs? GaDOE has made it possible for all school counselors to track their time and advocate for their comprehensive programs by purchasing SCUTA. This program is a game changer in allowing counselors to track their time and allowing their work to speak for itself.

🗣️ Speaker



Fabion Vicks

Counselor
SCUTA

2024-25 Simplified FAFSA

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Tips and Technology

Federal Student Aid has been working to ‘simplify’ the FAFSA for the past several years. The 2024-25 FAFSA having the most changes. This session will walk through the FAFSA changes, discuss how the changes will impact FAFSA completion events, students financial aid, as well as the post-secondary’s award process. Real student scenarios will be used as examples for the new FAFSA.

🗣️ Speaker



Brenda Vaughn

K-12 Outreach Representative
GSFC

A Comprehensive Understanding the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and Career Exploration Program

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Did you know the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is NOT a military test and assists with College Readiness? The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) allows students to explore multiple paths to success -- college, certification, apprenticeships, Military, etc. in one place. Receive an overview on the complete ASVAB and career exploration program to nullify preconceived myths surrounding this planning tool. Session informs educators who advise or influence students’ post-high school graduation plans.

🗣️ Speaker



Shantelle James

US Army

Increasing Racial Equity in Advanced Courses: Vertical Alignment for Success

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Walsh (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Learn about our experience working to increase access and achievement in AP, IB, and dual enrollment courses for students of color at a diverse Atlanta-area high school, and how our program has expanded to include feeder schools within the cluster. We will discuss the various interventions we used to begin the diversification process, including small groups, individual counseling, bilingual parent nights, administrator consultation, and more. Come learn and share your ideas!

🗣️ Speakers



Vivian Hubby
Fulton County Schools



James Hulett
Ridgeview Charter Middle School



Iveth Cenicerros
School Counseling Intern
Fulton County Schools



Madison Walsh
Georgia State University

The real scoop on paying for college. Students' and families' expectations versus reality

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar A (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

While most families agree that college is an investment in their student's future, many are confused and stressed about paying for that education. Join this session to explore what college-bound high school families know and expect about paying for college, and how that compares to the realities experienced by currently enrolled undergraduates. We will investigate how families' understanding of available funding sources, attitudes and behaviors change as families begin and follow their higher education journey.

🗣️ Speaker



Kelly Savoie
Director, Assistant Region Head South
Sallie Mae

12:30 PM

Lunch on your own

🕒 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM, Nov 2

2:00 PM

Community Partnerships: Supporting College and Career Readiness

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Cumming (Capacity 70)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

This presentation describes how schools and districts partner with the US ARMY across school settings by focusing on secondary school relationships. The presentation illustrates how to form relationships to meet high school-aged students' shared career and educational readiness goals. This program will review how schools and armed forces recruiting agencies work together to enhance test-taking and academic skills, Career Exploration Program, and shared resources related to prevention of drug use, truancy, and other at-risk behaviors.

📌 Speakers



Allison Spargo
GPS for Success



Edward Littrell
Augusta, USAREC



Marques Bonner
Augusta, USAREC

Better Together - Relationships Make a Difference

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe E (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

Want to truly make a difference in the lives of students? Come learn fun ways to create meaningful relationships in your school! Through a partnership between principal and counselors, relationships built on trust are created and modeled from the top down. The principal and counselor each play a specific role, all while building relationships with staff and students. These relationships have the potential to change your school!

📌 Speakers



Andrea Brewer
Whitfield County School District



Brittany Sewell
Whitfield County School District

Calling All Stakeholders! --PK-5 Character Development and Leadership Skill-Building

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Do you want to maximize learning? Are you interested in increasing student engagement? How would you like to learn how to improve positive character development strategies and leadership skills? Students today are battling with trauma-related issues more than ever before. Understanding leadership and character development is one way to mitigate the negative behaviors that impede student learning in the classroom.

📌 Speakers



Jessica Durham
Educational Consultant
Karam's Little Leaders with Black Belt Bruce



Audra Karam
Co-Founder
Karam's Little Leaders with Black Belt Bruce

Using horticultural therapy to make a difference with students experiencing multiple risks and to promote emotional wellness

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar A (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Horticultural therapy is an evidence-based modality centered on gardening and plant-based activities. Horticultural therapy is an approach to teach children to grow plants, thus enabling them to make the connection that growing plants can help them understand themselves better; it is a useful stress management technique; and can result in something that gives them a sense of accomplishment. The research findings and benefits will be presented. This is a highly interactive presentation.

🗣️ Speakers



Antoinette Hollis

Program Coordinator, Assistant Professor, Practicum and Internship Coordinator of Counselor Education Program
SC State University



Crystal Giddings

Faculty and Chair of Counselor Education
Clark Atlanta University

Student Attendance: A Multitiered Approach

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Attendance has always been a daunting task for many school counselors. Student attendance is one of the most important factors of their success. Would you like to learn how to develop an attendance plan for your school that includes a tiered approach to interventions and data collection? Learn how develop an attendance plan to get your students in school, on time, everyday!

🗣️ Speakers



Latesha Dixon

Professional School Counselor
Bibb County School District



Nakeisha Chante' Ray

Bernd Elementary School



April Griffin

Union Elementary School (Bibb)

Technology Tools that Support!

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar C (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Tips and Technology

Welcome to the digital world! Are you novice or experienced school counselor looking for ways to support your school counseling program and students? Look no further! This session will review the many technology tools available to school counselors to help in organization, enhancements and advocacy for their school counseling programs, while discussing technology tools of engagement for students. A technology device, preferably laptop is required, as participants will walk away with a digital toolbox.

🗨️ Speakers



Shanna Mitchell-Jones

School Counselor
Henry County Schools



Ciara Miller

Professional School Counselor
Henry County

Powerful Student Support Practices: A Systemic approach to connecting students to supports for success

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Student success is at the forefront of school improvement efforts, but often times, districts, schools and teams need effective strategies for aligning practices to results. Learn about the SREB Powerful Student Support Practices and how your team can use the practices to focus efforts and leverage faculty and staff to empower students.

🗨️ Speaker



Erin Anderson-Williams

School Improvement Leadership Coach and Consultant
SREB

Supervision Bootcamp for Site Supervisors

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

Interested in becoming a site supervisor for practicum or internship? Have you been a supervisor in the past, but would like a refresher on supervision models of skills? Tried to be a supervisor and felt overwhelmed? Come join us for a brief overview of the primary goals of supervision, strategies for effective multicultural supervision, and a review of key supervision skills and techniques.

🗨️ Speakers



George McMahon

Clinical Associate Professor, School Counseling Program Coordinator
The University of Georgia



Erin Mason

Georgia State University

Everyday Restorative Practice in K-12 Education and Beyond

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Did you know that 80% of Restorative Justice in education is preventative? Restorative Justice is much more than just formal circles. Relationship building is the foundation of a successful restorative framework. From affective language to formal conferencing, in this session we will take a look at Tier I and Tier II tips and tools to engage, communicate, and build relationships with students. This session is for counselors of students at all grade levels.

🔊 Speaker



Sam Cutler
Behavior Coach
Gwinnett County Public Schools

Advocating for Children in Foster Care: Exclusionary Discipline and Trauma Impact Rule

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

The purpose of this training is to equip school counselors with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to provide early and impactful advocacy for children in foster care, especially those at risk of long-term exclusionary discipline. This session will give an overview of the school disciplinary process, its impact on youth in care, and early intervention tools and resources such as the trauma impact rule, special education advocacy, and behavioral health services.

🔊 Speakers



Caren Cloud
GA Appleseed



Morgan Bridgman
Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Black Male School Counselors: An Endangered Species

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: School Administrator

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Black men are rare commodities in both the educational field and counseling profession across levels. Although they are uniquely positioned to serve kids of color, they are often positioned in ways that threaten their very existence. Black male school counselors are an endangered species. This presentation isn't just social justice and advocacy work, it is an attempt to preserve the lives of black male school counselors and the lives of kids who look like them.

🔊 Speaker



Jhamarcus Pharaoh
Professional School Counselor
Clarke County School District

Youth & Mental Health — Here's What Young People Have to Say

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

Hear what Georgia's young people say they want and need adults to know about mental health today. By sharing young people's voices alongside fresh data, this session will increase participants' knowledge of teens' views of mental health needs as well as healthy approaches to self-expression. You'll learn teens' perspectives on what works in reducing stigma and fostering communication about mental health, as well as how to effectively engage youth in conversation around mental health.

🔊 Speakers



Maria Ramos
Senior Program Specialist
Voices for Georgia's Children



Rachel Alterman Wallack
VOX ATL

Food and Mood: Understanding the Gut/brain Connection

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Walsh (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

Today, it is widely known that nutrition plays a key role in your physical health. It also directly affects our mental and emotional well being. Studies point to a correlation between certain types of food, mental illness and mood disorders.

🔊 Speakers



Stacey Miller
Buford Elementary



Tamekia Bradshaw
Buford High School

Academic Readiness: Small Group Unit Lessons

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe D (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Psycho-educational small groups are an effective way to help students in their academic and social/emotional development. In this interactive session, participants will overview a unit of 6 group lessons that target students' academic readiness skills. The lessons' topics include goal setting, time-management, organization, learning styles, and self-advocacy. Each lesson incorporates creative activities that facilitate students' attainment of identified ASCA student standards and learning objectives. Activities include kinetic drawings, phototherapy, bibliotherapy, movement, use of props, and role-playing. Walk away with practical ideas to use with your students that can be tailored for all grade levels.

🔊 Speaker



John Creger
School Counselor
Marietta City School District

3:00 PM

Exhibit and Engagement with Coffee Break; Meet the Candidates

🕒 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Nov 2

4:00 PM

Parent Engagement Nights ~ Connecting your parents to student success!

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Cumming (Capacity 70)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

It is impossible to overestimate the value of communication between families and schools. According to research, students who have involved families perform better academically, adjust to new situations more quickly, have stronger social/emotional abilities, and graduate at higher rates. Parents who are aware of what is going on at school can better support their children thus integrating home with school. Because of this, a school's overall equity objectives must include equitable communication with parents.

🗣️ Speakers



Torrye Isom
School Counselor
Gwinnett County Public Schools



Elizabeth Ceuninck
Brookwood High School

Grab Your Hard Hat! Rebuilding Students for Success through Self-Esteem Small Groups

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

School counselors are often the “construction workers” in their buildings as they repair, build, and provide tools for students. One important role school counselors play is building students' self-esteem. In this session participants will learn how to conduct a self-esteem small group using activities, such as role-playing, self-reflection, and goal-setting. Participants will leave motivated with tools that can help students develop a positive self-image and confidence to tackle challenges and pursue their goals.

🗣️ Speaker



Denisha Brown
School Counselor
DeKalb School District

Stress management in elementary school students- Supporting students in the classroom using a whole class instructional approach

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar A (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Student stress is rising and elementary school students are no exception. NCES (2022) reports that 76% of public schools report an increase in school staff concerns regarding student mental health. School counselors are in a unique position to help students deal with increasing stress through whole class instruction. This presentation will discuss strategies for school counselors to help elementary school students deal with both short term and long term stress through whole class instruction.

🗣️ Speaker



DeAnn Simon
St. Mary's School

PBIS and Counselors: Working Together to Promote Strong Supports for Students

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

A positive school culture is essential for student success and creates community among all stakeholders. PBIS provides the framework to establish a safe, connected, and thriving school environment for all students. Presenters will detail the implementation of PBIS Tier One core practices, including classroom systems, in the elementary setting and the implementation steps for a successful PBIS Tier 2 check-in/check-out program.

🗣️ Speakers



Andrea Moore
Forsyth County Schools



Joanna Mann
George W. Whitlow Elementary



Elizabeth Thompson
Forsyth County School District

Strategies to Make a Difference in the Lives of Students Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Lamar C (150)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a pervasive neurodevelopmental condition affecting approximately 1 in 59 children. Children with ASD are at-risk for increased school refusal, social isolation, and peer victimization. School counselors have a responsibility to respond to these issues. However, school counselors report that they are not prepared to assist students with disabilities when they graduate. This session will address educational issues faced by students with ASD and strategies to assist students.

🗣️ Speakers



Teddi Cunningham

Professor - Counselor Education
Valdosta State University



Katharine Adams

Associate Professor, Licensed Psychologist
Valdosta State University



Huzeyfe Cakmakci

Valdosta State University



Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm

Associate Professor & Associate Professional Counselor
Valdosta State University

Analyze Use of Time to Impact Delivery of Tiered Interventions

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: Tips and Technology

When we document our time correctly and methodically, we create data that can be used to develop a data-driven school counseling program. We will review the basics of MTSS and MTMDSS and simplify their complexities. Theory will be followed with hands-on real-world examples that illustrate the relation between the ASCA National Model, the three tiers, school data, your data and more.

🗣️ Speaker



Steve Zaharakis

SCUTA

The Impact of Inclusive Post-Secondary Education: Humble Beginnings

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Across the United States, more than 300 Colleges and Universities have Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Programs (IPSE) designed to provide academic, social, and career development opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This presentation will discuss the impact and legacy of such programs on students.

🗣️ Speaker



Neil Duchac

Executive Director, Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth at Kennesaw State University
Kennesaw State University

Promoting Equitable Post-Secondary Opportunities for Historically Marginalized Students through Advocacy

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Historically marginalized students that don't fit the traditional mold are at-risk of thriving positively in the post-secondary setting. School Counselors can help promote an equitable level playing field by providing access to many 3-E DIAMOND post-secondary opportunities for students. Advocacy and empowerment support are the critical game changing elements that students want, need, and deserve from school counselors.

🔊 Speaker



William Maloney

CTAE Consulting & Counseling Corner LLC

The Three Es! Enroll, Employ or Enlist!

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Does your college & career readiness program make a difference in the lives of your students? Are you facilitating activities to elevate your students to success? Or, are you checking off tasks on list? This interactive session is designed to share engaging and energizing college and career activities that will empower your students for their post secondary plans. If your former students do not call about participating in these activities, this session is for you!

🔊 Speakers



Timica Parker

High School Counselor
Henry County/Dutchtown High School



Monique Edwards-Santiago

School Counselor
Dutchtown High School/Henry County Schools



Marcia Teemer

Dutchtown High School

Strategies for Supporting Undocumented Students transition into the Post-Secondary Environment

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

The goal of this session is to provide information to Professional School Counselors, Counselor Educators, Supervisors, Counseling Students, College Advisors and Educators concerning the various strategies that can be applied to assist undocumented high school students through the post-secondary process. Participants will receive information regarding the associated ethical approaches and legal policies.

🗣️ Speakers



Tamika Hibbert
Hibbert Counseling and Educational



LaVerne Ware
RCS

Eagle Ambassadors: Making a Difference Through Student Leadership

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

The counseling department at Riverside Middle School created the Eagle Ambassador program approximately 9 years ago. Since its inception, it has grown in popularity within our school community. The Eagle Ambassadors are a small group of students dedicated to the positive promotion of Riverside Middle. In this session, learn how to start your own student leadership program. Attendees will be given a step by step process from nomination to interview to selection as well as school-wide initiative ideas.

🗣️ Speaker



Tunisia Williams
School Counselor
Riverside Middle School

Practical Strategies for Supporting English Language Learners

🕒 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Walsh (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

This interactive session will focus on strategies we can use in our school counseling programs to increase parent involvement and improve student success for our English Language Learners. Attendees will learn how to implement strategies and interventions for engaging with parents and students when there is a language barrier.

🗣️ Speakers



Anna Brachey
Chamblee High School



Lisandra Latorre
DeKalb County School District

5:00 PM

Dinner on your Own

🕒 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM, Nov 2

6:45 PM

Awards Ceremony and RAMP Schools Recognition

🕒 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Estes A & B (Capacity 200)

Come celebrate the School Counselor of the Year, Other Awards and RAMP recipients.

No refreshments will be served.

8:30 PM

Probe Party: Cocktails & Conversations with Host

🕒 8:30 PM - 11:00 PM, Nov 2

📍 Oglethorpe D & E

[Social Eve...](#)

Cocktails & Conversations with Host 8:30-9:15; DJ and Dance floor 9:15 - 11 pm). Be there or be square! The PROBE party brings down the house every year, and this year is no exception. Thanks to our sponsor, PROBE, we will have desserts, adult beverages, a DJ and dance floor. Wear your name badge so our Probe host, Clint Hobbs, can get to know you. You can switch to wearing your Probe sticker when it's time to start dancing.

Bar (attendees provided with drink tickets upon arrival, then cash bar) and Desserts

Fri, Nov 03, 2023

6:45 AM

ARMY National Guard Boot Camp

🕒 6:45 AM - 7:30 AM, Nov 3

📍 Level 2 Prefuction

The Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) System is the Army's primary investment in Soldier readiness and lethality, optimal physical and non-physical performance, reduced injury rates, improved rehabilitation after injury and increased overall effectiveness of the Total Army. The system empowers and equips Soldiers to take charge of their health, fitness, and well-being in order to optimize individual performance, while preventing injury and disease. Join our instructor as he leads your day with some light stretching and preparation drills.

8:00 AM

Information Desk Open

🕒 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Nov 3

📍 Registration

Exhibits Open

🕒 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Olmstead A

Breakfast & Coffee, President Annoucements

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Olmstead A

9:15 AM

Region Meeting - Region 1

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

Region Meeting - Region 2

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

Region Meeting - Region 5

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

[Affinity Meeting/Region M...](#)

Region Meeting - Region 3

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Olmstead B

Affinity Meeting/Region M...

Region Meeting - Region 4

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Affinity Meeting/Region M...

Region Meeting - Region 6

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Affinity Meeting/Region M...

Region Meeting - Region 7

🕒 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Affinity Meeting/Region M...

10:15 AM

Thinking forward to high school graduation: Forward-thinking paths toward graduation within the Technical College System of Georgia

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Cumming (Capacity 70)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

This session will include non-traditional paths to high school graduation including Accelerated Career, the Dual Achievement Program, and opportunities at Georgia's College and Career Academies

🗣️ Speakers



Lauren Edgar

Technical College System of Georgia



Joseph Echols

Dual Enrollment Director

Technical College System of GA



Ben McCumber

Technical College System of Georgia

Rural School Counselors and STEM Career Advising

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Estes A (capacity 200)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Career counseling in the rural setting requires school counselors to meet student and community needs while respecting the qualities inherent in rural education and the rural setting. Learn effective strategies for advising rural students about STEM careers. This presentation includes a focus on guiding and motivating rural students as well as ways to collaborate with school personnel and unique rural community stakeholders to facilitate career advising with rural students.

👤 Speakers



Lee Grimes

Contributing Faculty, School Counseling
Walden University



Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm

Associate Professor & Associate Professional Counselor
Valdosta State University



Serey Bright

Staff Therapist
Oglethorpe University

Doors Wide Open: The Efficacy of Open-Door Policy Counseling using Research-Based Methods

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Estes B (capacity 200)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

How can we become counselors where teachers, students, and staff feel the freedom to utilize us not only in times of crisis but also feel encouraged to approach their counselors with everyday questions and concerns? Using data, valuable methods on how to create and implement an effective open-door policy will be examined. Additionally, valuable open-door strategies that promote transparency, foster strong communication, and increase visibility resulting in a stronger counseling program will be discussed.

👤 Speaker



KB Bell

Counselor
Westside Atlanta Charter School

Using Restorative Practices to Change Student Behavior

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: General Counseling

The use of restorative practices helps students change their behavior which, in turn, improves their academic achievement. Restorative Practices teach students skills to deal with difficult situations and increase their desire to act more responsibly and respectfully. This presentation will provide counselors with proven Restorative approaches that decrease the need for punitive approaches and increase instructional time. This presentation will also teach innovative techniques for using a restorative mindset approach in schools more effectively.

Link to the slide presentation on Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zBufh7wvmJiilVpE5FwDc7wvjAWAF4pw?usp=sharing>

👤 Speaker



Janelle Brooks

School Counselor
Rockdale County Schools

Access and Equity: Empowering Students of Color by Creating Pathways to College

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Lamar A (Capacity 150)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Kvz3iEYt4qTEsB7xMc9MOzFwAIG2gUDi/edit?usp=share_link&oid=104506388982886700296&rtpof=true&sd=true

School Counselors are in a unique position to close the achievement gaps experienced by marginalized students. School counselors are intimately involved in the selection of courses from 8th grade through senior year of high school. By identifying students of color that have not fully grasped their academic potential, school counselors can address the issue of equity and inclusion in advanced level courses and create a pathway to college for marginalized students.

🗣️ Speaker



Denise Hawkins

Professional School Counselor/Counselor Education & Supervision Doctoral Student - 2nd year
University Of Georgia

CANCELED: Puppets and Crayons-- A Creative Approach to using Play Therapy in Schools

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Lamar B (100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Puppets and Crayons-- A Creative Approach to using Play Therapy in Schools will be a hands-on interactive experience for school counselors to learn more techniques and strategies to add to their toolkit. They will learn ways to use expressive arts when working with students of varying backgrounds and experiences.

🗣️ Speaker



Ugonna Love, Ed.S., NCC

Professional School Counselor
Wesley International Academy

Trauma Responsiveness: Advocating for Our Students and Staff

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Lamar C (150)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Learn about how trauma affects the brain, attachment, and overall child development. This session dives into the various impacts of childhood trauma, including the impact on emotional development, social adjustment, classroom behaviors, and family dynamics. You will leave this session with ideas of how you as a school counselor can make a positive difference in the lives of your students, staff, and the overall culture of your school.

🗣️ Speaker



Rebecca Burkhart

SCCPSS

College Admission Anxiety: Simplify, Demystify, & Manage

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe A (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Learn the most common ways anxiety creeps into the college admissions process, impacting students, their families, and you! Leave with methods to combat these unhealthy thought patterns, and learn how to change the conversation to focus on the things that matter most when it comes to ensuring that students end up at the college that is right for them.

👤 Speakers



LeAnne Hale

Oconee County Schools



Cindy Murphy

Grand Canyon University & Private Practice

Meaningful, Affordable Professional Development: A Peer Supervision Model

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe B (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Middle

Primary Experience Level: Beginner Counselors (1-4 years)

Primary Interest Area: Career Advancement

Clinical supervision plays a vital role in the professional development of counselors, but school counselors have little access to quality supervision after they graduate from master's program. This program will highlight the benefits of receiving supervision on job performance, confidence, and burnout, and provide a peer supervision model that is effective and free. Participants will hear from school counselors who utilized the model, and will leave able to start their own peer supervision.

👤 Speakers



George McMahon

Clinical Associate Professor, School Counseling Program Coordinator
The University of Georgia



Kelly Ruda

Counselor
North Gwinnett High School



Tajah Pinkard

School Counselor
Gwinnett County Public Schools



Brittany Gantt

The University of Georgia

Supporting LGBTQ+ Students in Troubling Times

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe C (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Don't ask; don't tell, don't counsel. LGBTQ+ students are being harmed by schools and a society that seeks to erase them. Counselors doing their jobs of supporting queer/ trans students are facing new challenges. Beyond knowledge, skills, and attitudes, we have heightened need for thoughtful advocacy. What can we do? How do we do it best? This program is a group forum as we look at best practices, our situations, and our needed supports.

🗣️ Speaker



Ken Jackson
Counselor
Decatur High School

Making a Difference in the Lives of Students using a Comprehensive District-Wide Approach to the Mental Health Needs of Students and Staff.

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe D (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Is your district struggling to meet the mental health needs of your students? Let's talk about building a comprehensive district-wide approach to meeting this goal. Participants will learn about a multi-tiered initiative that includes obtaining student voice, building community partnerships, providing staff wellness, school based mental health services and creating data-driven interventions. Come learn about our passionate pursuit of mental wellness for our school community.

🗣️ Speakers



Tracy Tuck
Cherokee County School District



Tara Quinn-Schuldt
Student Support Specialist
Cherokee County School District



Christine Wernquist
School Counselor
Woodstock High School

Forging Equitable Futures for Black Students with Disabilities

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe E (Capacity 225)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Advocacy

Black students with disabilities face barriers in pre K-12 school years. Their parents/guardians witness their child receiving punitive school discipline, bias from educators, and non-inclusive postsecondary planning. School counselors are often unaware of these challenges.

Seldom-heard accounts centering on Black parents' experiences with their child's postsecondary planning will provide session attendees with knowledge of how educators can better collaborate with Black parents of youth with disabilities to provide more equitable and inclusive opportunities.

🗣️ Speaker



Erin Kilpatrick
School Counselor
Gwinnett County Public Schools

Georgia's Direct Admission Program: Helping High School Seniors Realize their Postsecondary Opportunities

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe F (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Student Focused

Starting this fall, high school seniors will receive a letter from Governor Kemp providing postsecondary institutions that match their current high school credentials. Students may then access GAfutures to learn about their options as well as financial aid. Once ready, they can confirm their interest in admission to a selection of their matching institutions. Join representatives from GSFC, GADOE, TCSG, and USG to learn about Georgia's Direct Admission program and how it can help students.

Speakers



Sarah Wenham

Director, Student Enrollment Services
University System of GA



Andy Parsons

GSFC



Derek Dabrowiak

Assistant Commissioner
Technical College System of Georgia



Sheila McKeehan

GaDOE

What Should I Do When A Tragedy Happens? Preparing for an Emergency Response to a Crisis.

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe G (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Counselor Educator/Supervisor

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Counselor Focused

In the school counseling profession, counselors will have to manage a crisis. How prepared are you? How prepared is your district? No matter the size of your school or district - crisis management preparation is a must! This session will cover the ins and outs of managing a crisis. Participants will leave with multiple tools, tips, and templates that will assist with developing comprehensive crisis intervention plans for implementation in their schools.

Speakers



Demetria Williams

Gwinnett County School District



Heather Alvira

Coordinator- Office of Counseling, College and Career Services
Gwinnett County Public Schools



Kimberly Geer

Gwinnett County School District

My Future Self

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe H (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Elementary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Career Advancement

It's never too early for students to begin their future! By identifying their interests, students will be guided to explore various careers. Whether a student has known since first grade what they want to be or has no idea, this activity will help students learn about many careers. Students will not only become very familiar with a specific job but also learn the important skills of planning, researching, organizing, managing time, and oral presentation.

🔊 Speakers



Shanna Mitchell-Jones

School Counselor
Henry County Schools



Ciara Miller

Professional School Counselor
Henry County

Trade Talks: Counselor Edition

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Nov 3

📍 Walsh (Capacity 100)

Primary Target Audience: Secondary

Primary Experience Level: Appropriate for All Counselors

Primary Interest Area: Career Advancement

Georgia has many opportunities to connect people to skills and training required to enter the workforce! By bringing the Trade Talks to your school, you are Making a Difference in the Lives of Students. Students can access internships through the Trade employers and take advantage of WBL credits; they can participate in Dual Enrollment and access classes for free; and enter programs connected to the TCSG and USG exposing students to life changing opportunities.

🔊 Speaker



Laura Potts

Cobb County School District

11:30 AM

Worksetting Meetings - Elementary School - Book-A-Holics

🕒 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Nov 3

📍 Olmstead B

Worksetting Mee...

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY of BOOK-A-HOLICS! We're celebrating 25 years of school counselors using fantastic children's literature to enhance our counseling programs! The self-proclaimed President of Book-A-Holics Anonymous is back to bring you dozens of children's books and ideas for using them in your counseling program in this practical and fast-paced workshop! With a complete bibliography of books arranged by subject, you will leave with LOTS of ways to become a Book-A-Holic yourself!

🔊 Speaker



Nancy Jones

Director of Counseling, Dean of Counseling and Student Services
Wesleyan School

Worksetting Meetings - Middle School

🕒 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe D (Capacity 225)

Worksetting Mee...

Do you feel like no one knows exactly what your school counseling program entails? Focus on creative ideas, fun activities and step-by-step methods you can use to promote, enhance and increase the visibility of both yourself as a school counselor and your school counseling program to all stakeholders. Hear about social media tricks, tips to boost your school counseling website, ways to create catchy announcements and easy PR videos, and much more.

🗣️ Speaker



Betsy Alpert
Cobb County School District

Worksetting Meetings - High School

🕒 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Nov 3

📍 Oglethorpe E (Capacity 225)

Worksetting Mee...

During this meeting, you will hear about Army Scholarship Opportunities and the Georgia Student Finance Commission GA Match Initiative

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM - U.S. Army Representative: Keenan Gamble; GA Southern University Army ROTC: Scholarship Opportunities

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM - GSFC Representative - GA Match Initiative: Andy Parsons

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM - Announcements and Wrap Up

If you didn't get a chance to complete the GSCA HS counselor brief Google survey, please do so. Thank you!

<http://bit.ly/3sr8NIL>

🗣️ Speaker



Erin Kilpatrick
School Counselor
Gwinnett County Public Schools

Worksetting Meetings - Counselor Educator/District Leaders

🕒 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Nov 3

📍 Hamilton (Capacity 100)

Worksetting Mee...

Dr. Gueh and Dr. Jackson will discuss recent legislation and the impact on the training and preparation of new school counselors.

🗣️ Speakers



Dr. Bobby Gueh
Clinical Assistant Professor
Georgia State University



Ken Jackson
Counselor
Decatur High School

1:00 PM

Adjournment with Grab & Go Snacks

🕒 1:00 PM - 1:15 PM, Nov 3