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SDSCA

The mission of the South Dakota School Counselor Association is to unite, support, and empower school counselors.

Our Vision:

The South Dakota School Counselor Association supports and unites school counselors through advocacy, leadership, and collaboration. SDSCA empowers our members through professional development opportunities, ethical support, and resources to promote student success in the academic, career, and social/emotional domains.

2018 SDSCA Awards

As November comes to a close, we at SDSCA hope that there are many things you have to be thankful for. We are grateful for the work our members and allies of school counseling on behalf of students, families, schools, and the profession.

What better way to show your gratitude for your colleagues then by nominating them for one SDSCA's awards.

- ◆ **The Orv Schmieding Award**– SDSCA's top award, recognizing distinguished contributions
- ◆ **The Outstanding Professional School Counselor Award**
- ◆ **The Rising Star Award**– recognizing an outstanding newcomer to the profession
- ◆ **The Special Contributions Award**– given to an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to schools, school counselors, or the profession

This year we are pleased to announce a new award:

- ◆ **The Administrator Advocacy Award**– recognizing a school administrator who is a true ally to their school counselor(s) and the school counseling profession

[Click here](#) to see the complete set of criteria for each award and to see a list of past recipients.

The nomination window is scheduled to open on December 1st and award recipients will be announced at the SDSCA luncheon, taking place April 20th, 2018 at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Pierre.

Help us in honoring our colleagues and allies who really go the extra mile in helping students, families, schools, and fellow school counselors.

Thank you for all that you do and thank you for choosing to be a part of SDSCA!

Counselor Connections 2017– Recap

We are thrilled with the turnout for the 9th annual Counselor Connections Workshop! Over 80 practicing school counselors, counselor educators, and graduate students were in attendance for SDSCA's fall professional development event. Session topics included: school counselor ethics, functional behavior assessments, school counselor/administrator advocacy, utilizing an "elevator speech" to promote yourself and your program, issues that can present similar to ADHD, school counselor burnout, and more! Several sessions also shared information on programs available to assist students, including [Sanford Harmony](#), [Confident Me!](#), and [Sad Isn't Bad](#). We sincerely thank all of the presenters who went the extra mile in sharing their experiences, wisdom, and ideas with attendees. Thanks also to the vendors who participated in our vendor fair: [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#), [Crossing Life's Bridges](#), and [South Dakota State University](#).

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and make this one of the best Counselor Connections ever. We hope to see you next fall as Counselor Connections celebrates its tenth year! Look for details coming spring of 2018.



(Left) Carl "The Energizer" Olson leads participants in a activity as part of his session "Impact Counseling".



(Right) Session attendees participate in some trivia about students' perception of body image during Julie King's session about Dove's *Confident Me!* program.



Stay Connected with SDSCA

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SDSCounselors/>

Twitter: [@SDSCounselors](#)

Pinterest: [SDSCA Board](#)



Coming Next Month...

December's ASCA partnered newsletter shows how utilizing ASCA resources to help advocate for your position, your program, the profession, and those you serve.



Julie Nelson

SDSCA President-Elect

School Counselor
Southwest Middle School
Rapid City

Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ **February 2nd**– SDCA Day on the Hill in Pierre. Look for details coming soon about this advocacy opportunity with state lawmakers.
- ◆ **February 5th-9th**– National School Counseling Week! Start planning to celebrate and advocate for you, your program, and the profession by [clicking here to visit ASCA's NSCW page!](#)
- ◆ **April 19th**– SDSCA and SDMHCA pre-conference : *The ABCs of SFBC: An Introduction to Solution-Focused Brief Counseling*. Registration opening soon!
- ◆ **April 19th-21st**– 2018 SDCA Conference in Pierre. More information coming soon to the [SDCA Website](#).
- ◆ **April 26th-29th**– 2018 ACA Conference in Atlanta, GA. For more information or to register, please [click here](#).
- ◆ **July 14th-17th**– 2018 ASCA Conference in Los Angeles, CA. [Details can be found here!](#)

The Military Family: Transition, Mobility & Separation

By: Julie Nelson

With November comes Veteran's Day and a focus on the contributions our veterans have given us. Whether you have an Army National Guard unit stationed in your area, Air Guard base or an Air Force base nearby, chances are you have students who are considered military and veteran-connected youth in your schools. Many military struggles center around transitions, mobility and separation. The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is a non-profit organization who has military families' needs at the forefront. The MCEC is proud to serve, support and advocate for every branch of the military; Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, or Retired. Their vision is to ensure every military child is college, workforce, and life-ready by ensuring inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military and veteran-connected children affected by mobility, transition, and family separation. Here are some of what MCEC offers:

- [Background information on the history of Veteran's Day](#)
- [Webinars for parents & educators](#)
- [Professional development for educators](#)
- [Art contest for civilian & military connected youth](#)
- [Transition resources](#)
- [MCEC Course Catalog](#)
- [Scholarships](#)

Mark your school counselor calendar for April 2018, designated as the Month of the Military Child (MOMC), and start making plans to bring awareness to the unique contributions military and veteran-connected youth bring to your communities. Check out the MOMC tool kit to start planning: <http://www.militarychild.org/momc-tool-kit> [Note: this link will be updated with 2018 materials as April draws closer.]

Membership Changes

Membership in SDCA and its branches formerly ran the fiscal year of July 1st– June 30th. However, memberships are now good for a full calendar year. For example, if you joined SDCA, SDSCA, and your local chapter on August 30th 2017, your memberships would last until August 29th, 2018! Don't miss out on all the wonderful benefits being a member of your professional organizations offer you. [Click here](#) to join or renew your SDSCA, SDCA, or other memberships today!

Contact SDCA Executive Director Rebecca Christiansen if you have questions about your membership:

sdca.counseling@gmail.com

Everyone Has a Career Journey...

By: Yolanda Price

No two career journeys are ever the same; everyone's career journey is different and changes over time based on events and experiences in our lives. As school counselors we have to ask the hard questions sometimes or questions making students think about where they are headed. Some of these questions might be: What are your interests? Do you like to work outdoors? Do you enjoy working with your hands? Who is your role model?

Many times the career journey doesn't even begin until a student graduates. However, in order to assist students at younger ages in finding their career journey, we can:

1. Start career discussions as early as pre-K
2. Encourage students to think big and think outside the box at all ages; beginning in pre-K all the way through their senior year.
3. Help students take interest inventories at several points throughout their school years as interests and life experiences most certainly have an impact and change over time.
4. Share your personal career journey or have students interview neighbors and friends about their career journey; learning about others helps recognize there are many different paths.
5. Assist in setting up career experiences; guest speakers, hands out activities, youth internships; exposure can help rule out or solidify a student's interest.
6. Encourage students to visit post-secondary programs, campuses, and on the job training facilities.

Other resources include collaborating with the Department of Labor office in your area or the Vocational Rehabilitation office and utilizing the free resources from SDMyLife and the Department of Labor.

It's a great BIG world out there to our students and it was when we were young too! So what was or still is your career journey? Share your story with your students!



Yolanda Price

SDSCA Middle Grade
Vice President

K-12 School Counselor
Hanson School District
Alexandria

Ever Been Subpoenaed or Testified in Court?

If so, your input is needed! There is currently very little research available regarding school counselors and this area.

Please contact Dan DeCino at: Daniel.decino@usd.edu to share your experiences or should you have questions. Dan and his fellow researchers are flexible and willing to accommodate your schedule.

Please consider contribute to their research to better prepare and educate your colleagues.



Did You Know...

The SDCounselors@k12.sd.us listserv and the SDSCAMembers@k12.sd.us listserv are different. Access to SDCounselors@k12.sd.us has counselors, administrators, and others as members. SDSCAMembers@k12.sd.us is for school counseling professionals and students.

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Dr. Catherine Griffith

Congratulations

Congratulations to Courtney Van Zee and family on the birth of her daughter Cambree. Courtney is the 7-12 school counselor in Miller and is also SDSCA's Technology chair.



If you have good news that you'd like to share about you, your program, or your school—please email us at sd.schoolcounselors@gmail.com. Please feel free to share pictures too!

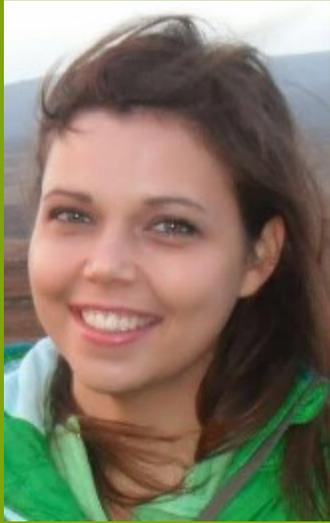
2018 Pre-Conference Workshop

SDSCA and the South Dakota Mental Health Counselor Association (SDMHCA) are please to co-sponsor this year's pre-conference workshop: *The ABCs of SFBC: An Introduction to Solution-Focused Brief Counseling*.

From the "Columbo Approach" to the "Miracle Question", there are scores of solution-focused brief counseling (SFBC) techniques that work wonders for diverse clients in school and community settings. Intended for those who are newer to using SFBC, participants in this workshop will learn how to use several evidence-based techniques to help clients identify their personal strengths, improve their coping skills, and reach both their short and long-term goals. Attendees will: (a) learn about SFBC's history, theoretical assumptions, and usefulness with various client needs; (b) understand the benefits of a solution-focused approach over a problem-based approach; (c) develop a practical understanding of how to use SFBC's most popular and effective evidence-based techniques; and (d) increase self-efficacy in working with resistant clients. The philosophy and fundamentals of the approach will be delivered through presentation, discussion, demonstrations, and video clips, but mostly via experiential role-play. This will be a "hands-on" session, in which participants will learn a wide array of techniques by practicing skills and receiving instant feedback. Join us and learn the basics of SFBC or simply brush up on your skills! Ample take-home resources will be provided.

Our presenter will be Dr. Catherine Griffith, assistant professor in the school counselor education program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is a passionate advocate for creating school environments that are responsive to under-served students and families, she specializes in using and teaching solution-focused brief counseling to form strength-based and goal-focused sessions to establish a foundation for success. In addition to teaching graduate-level courses, Dr. Griffith has also presented over 50 skills-training and research-focused workshops both nationally and internationally. She also serves as Associate Director of the Ronald H. Fredrickson Center for School Counseling Outcome Research & Evaluation (CSCORE). You can learn more about Dr. Griffith at her website, by [clicking here](#).

School Counselor Spotlight



Dana Livermont

College and Career Readiness Lead Counselor, Rapid City Area Schools

How long have you been a school counselor?: 8 years

Why do you enjoy being a school counselor?: Being a school counselor is so rewarding! The most fulfilling thing for me personally is to help people. Being a school counselor allows me to help people everyday! Also, I love that no two days on the job are ever the same. We are constantly adapting and responding, and that suits me really well.

What do you see as the biggest issues currently facing school counselors?: One of the biggest issues facing school counselors that I see is a lack of advocacy for our role. We can have such a positive impact on our schools, and we have research to support this. However, many people within our schools and within our communities continue to see us as the traditional “guidance” counselors of the past and not the comprehensive “school” counselors we are. We need to continue to talk with stakeholders about the work we do and provide the data that shows our value in schools.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?: We have a lot of exciting changes happening in Rapid City! We are working really hard to evaluate our programming on a district level. We are using opportunities that are specific to our roles within the schools. We are also taking steps to implement the SD Comprehensive School Counseling model at all of our schools. Maybe most importantly, our school counselors are beginning to feel like they belong to a bigger department– beyond the work at their schools– within which we're building collaborative relationships with counselors across the district and at all levels.

Oscar Howe Elementary School, Sioux Falls

Jeff Heavlin

SDSCA Past President



How long have you been a school counselor?: Just started year 12!

Why do you enjoy being a school counselor?: You get to know students on a different level than other staff members. It's great to watch them grow over the years.

If you weren't a school counselor, what other vocation would you like to be in?: I would love to be an author, write comic books, or be a voice actor for TV and movies.

What advice would you give to anyone new to the profession?: Learn as much as you can from the people in your life: fellow counselors, teachers and other staff, and your students too. They will help you grow and work towards honing your craft.

Who are your inspirations?: I have several, but top of my list is probably my great grandmothers. She took care of me a lot when I was growing up and she helped me to develop my love for learning and the importance of hard work in life. A huge shout out to the educators in life who also helped to inspire me, including (but not limited to): Mr. Vail (1st grade), Mrs. Neal (7th grade), Mrs. Traxinger (11th grade), and Dr. Antonen (undergrad).

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