

## In This Issue...

- ◆ **Mark Your Calendar**  
... page 2
- ◆ **Suicide Prevention Tools** ... page 2
- ◆ **ASCA Publications**  
... page 2
- ◆ **School Counselor Spotlight**  
... page 3

### 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.

## Countdown to Counselor Connections 2017

SDSCA is pleased to present the 9th annual Counselor Connections Workshop, November 3rd and 4th on the SDSU Campus in Brookings! Counselor Connections is a professional development event presented by school counselors, for school counselors. A tentative agenda for both days can be [found here](#).

[Click here to register today!](#)

**We hope you are able to join us!**



Save the date  
for the 9th Annual  
**Counselor Connections**  
Workshop  
November 3rd & 4th  
at SDSU



South Dakota  
School Counselor Association  
UNITE, SUPPORT, EMPOWER

## Help Fight Suicide

Take action! Bring suicide prevention to your school! Contact the South Dakota Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for resources to use in your school. We have free prevention curriculum, presentations and resource materials for use in South Dakota schools. Check out some of what we offer here: <https://afsp.org/take-action/bring-prevention-school/>

For more information about how the South Dakota chapter of AFSP can help you save lives, contact Board Chair Anna Eidem at: [Anna.Eidem@k12.sd.us](mailto:Anna.Eidem@k12.sd.us)



American Foundation  
for Suicide Prevention

## Build Your Comprehensive Program

SDSCA is proud to once again offer ASCA publications at discounted prices. These books are the ideal additions to your professional library as you build, grow, and maintain your school's comprehensive school counseling program. True must-haves if you would like to achieve ASCA's RAMP status.

Look for our table at Counselor Connections next month!

*(cash or check only please, supplies are limited)*



## Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ **November 3rd & 4th**– SDSCA presents the 9th Annual Counselor Connections Workshop in Brookings. [Click here to register.](#)
- ◆ **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-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 coming soon!

## 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](mailto:sdca.counseling@gmail.com)

# School Counselor Spotlight



**Shannon Knuppe**

**Aberdeen Central High School**

**SDSCA Secondary Vice President**

*How long have you been a school counselor?:* Going into my 12th year!

*Why do you enjoy being a school counselor?:* I love working with teens! Helping them plan for their future and accomplish their goals is so fun to see. And the fact that no two days are ever the same is pretty exciting too!

*What do you see as the biggest issues currently facing school counselors?:* When it comes to school counselors, I think of the biggest issues we face is lack of time, planning, and fear of burnout. With some counselors holding caseloads of over 500

students, they are not longer able to do their job to the best of their ability, cause they are too busy “putting out fires”. I feel that’s why it is so vital for us to continue to advocate for our position and show others what we do and how school counselors are an important component for student success. Don’t be afraid to brag about yourself and what you bring to your school and your kids!

*What advice would you give to someone new to the school counseling profession?:* Don’t become stagnant, always be looking for ways to improve your program, you school, and your students. Don’t be afraid of change, embrace it.

**Kathy Tofflemire**

**Hayward Elementary School, Sioux Falls**

*How long have you been a school counselor?:* I am starting my 9th year.

*Why do you enjoy being a school counselor?:* Everything– making connections with kids, helping students find success, collaborating with teachers, being an advocate for kids and families.

*If you weren’t a school counselor, what other vocation would you like to be in?:*  
An assistant for Ellen DeGeneres– she seems so compassionate and fun!

*What advice would you give to anyone new to the profession?:* Build relationships with teachers, secretaries, EA’s, admin, etc. My program wouldn’t work nearly as well if I didn’t have the support of staff. Along those lines, build relationships and network with other counseling professionals. My counseling colleagues are a great sounding board and also have a wealth of resources and knowledge!



**FOLLOW  
US ON:**

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

Twitter: [@SDSCounselors](https://twitter.com/SDSCounselors)

Pinterest: [SDSCA Board](https://www.pinterest.com/SDSCABoard/)



**NEXT MONTH:**

A recap of Counselor Connections, working with military families, more colleagues in the Spotlight, and more!