

# COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for  
Louisiana's Professional  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

## In This Issue

Counselor Spotlight: Kristy Wells

Census 2020

Student Opportunities

Professional Development Opportunities

Middle and High School News

In Case You Missed It

## Counselor Spotlight: Kristy Wells



It is that time of year--time to start thinking about scheduling students for the next school year. As we begin meeting with students and analyzing their transcripts, keep in mind that, as counselors, we are advocates for our students--sometimes, the only ones they have. They depend on us to help them make the best decisions possible. They are our future, and we have to strive to give them our best.

In advising students, it is important to discuss their future plans and the results of any interest inventories and career assessments they have already completed. Students will have also been exposed to myriad careers if they have taken Quest for Success or another career awareness class. It is also important for us to know which careers show excellent growth for the future. We need to be well informed and get involved with our region's Workforce Commission and Workforce Development Boards. Although your district supervisors, CTE leaders, and Jump Start teams should already be involved, I believe school counselors should also be a part of those discussions. If you have not already done so, ask to be a part of the conversation.

All students are career students! They are preparing for their future careers whether it is nursing or welding. We need to make sure that we are purposefully scheduling students into classes which will best fit their future plans. Teenagers change their minds, sometimes daily. That is why interest inventories, career assessments and career awareness courses are so important. Students need to know and be introduced to careers that are high-demand, high-wage and have a positive future outlook and growth index.

Schools also need to take into account student interest when creating and adjusting pathways. Not only should schools look at what industry is in their region but also in the state that will match student interest and plans. Jump Start 2.0 will streamline our pathways and make it easier to work with students. We need to make sure that we are offering all students the chance to earn statewide credentials that can prepare them for their future careers. Whether on the University or Jump Start graduation path, students need background knowledge and soft skills in order to be successful. We must work diligently to assure that ALL of our students leave high school ready for their future career.

As we move forward with Jump Start 2.0, I challenge the counselors in our state to get involved in the

discussions in your parish and region about CTE, pathways, and certifications. The more knowledgeable you are, the better you can help your students make informed decisions. Also, our knowledge is invaluable to these agencies, boards, and our school supervisors as they plan for the future.

I wish everyone a great 2020 and a wonderful CTE Month!

Kristy Wells  
School Counselor  
Caldwell Parish High School

---

## Census 2020

Agencies across the United States are working together to educate the public about the importance of the United States Census. Getting an accurate count is crucial to schools and communities. Census results are used for redistricting at national, state, and local levels, and over \$675 billion a year will be distributed to state and local governments using the 2020 Census results. Some of the programs and services that are based on Census-derived data include Pell Grants, the national school lunch program, Title I, special education, and Head Start.

Please visit the U.S. Census 2020 [website](#) to learn more; go to the Partners [page](#) to become a Census partner.

---

## Student Opportunities

### Student Video Challenge

The Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and NASA HUNCH are celebrating CTE month by hosting a [student video challenge](#). Middle school, high school, and postsecondary students are invited to produce a two-minute video about this year's theme--Living and Working on the Moon and Beyond. The deadline to submit videos is **March 2**. Please visit the CTE month [web page](#) for other ways to celebrate your CTE program.

### Jump Start Construction Scholars Program

The [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#) is now accepting applications for a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship is geared toward students who have earned the Jump Start Diploma and a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential. Recipients must enroll in a Louisiana Career and Technical College System (LCTCS) construction pathway or an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

This is the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates. This effort is a collaboration of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation, LCTCS, and the LDOE. For more information please contact [stephanie.marcum@la.gov](mailto:stephanie.marcum@la.gov).

### Louisiana Young Heroes

[Louisiana Public Broadcasting](#) is proud to announce the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Louisiana Young Heroes program and the statewide call for nominations for exceptional young people who have excelled in academics, given significantly of themselves through public service, overcome adversity, exhibited extraordinary heroism, or inspired others through their deeds and strength of character.

Note: all nominations and supporting materials are submitted through an [online form](#). The deadline for submissions is **March 16**. The 2020 Louisiana Young Heroes will be announced on LPB's weekly news and public affairs program *Louisiana: The State We're In*, on the Louisiana Young Heroes Facebook page, and at [lpb.org/heroes](http://lpb.org/heroes). Please visit the program [web page](#) for more information.

### Community College Week

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) has partnered with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) in celebration of [Community College Week](#), **March 23 through 27**.

The purpose of the Community College Week is to inform prospective students of all ages about the LCTCS programs and the careers associated with them. Each of the twelve colleges within LCTCS will host open house events that will provide information about program pathways, campus life, financial aid, scholarship opportunities and other aspects of the colleges. LOSFA will be highlighting best ways to utilize TOPS awards, career interest exploration, and more. Visit the LCTCS [event page](#) to register.

## Professional Development Opportunities

### 2020 Spring Counselor Institutes: **Date Change**

[Registration](#) for the LDOE Spring Counselor Institutes is now open. Topics to be discussed include school counseling resources, middle and high school updates, and Jump Start 2.0.

Please click on the date in the chart below to register for the Counselor Institute nearest you. **All events are from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.**

Date	Location
<a href="#">April 1</a>	St. Charles Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070
<a href="#">April 2</a>	Tangipahoa Parish School Board Office 59656 Puleston Road Amite, LA 70422
<a href="#">April 3</a> <b>date change</b>	Acadia Parish Education Center 2402 N. Parkerson Avenue Crowley, LA 70526
<a href="#">April 7</a>	Bossier Parish School for Technology and Innovative Learning 1020 Innovation Drive Bossier City, LA 71111
<a href="#">April 8</a>	Ouachita Parish School Board 1600 North 7th Street West Monroe, LA 71291
<a href="#">April 9</a>	St. Landry Parish School Board 1013 E. Creswell Lane Opelousas, LA 70571

Please email [leslie.gilliland@la.gov](mailto:leslie.gilliland@la.gov) with questions about the LDOE Counselor Institutes.

### College Board: CLEP Testing Webinar

The College Board is hosting a webinar for test administrators and school counselors new to the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP). Topics include identifying test takers, opening a CLEP test center, and administering the test.

- [February 25 at 2:00 p.m.](#)
- March 23 at 1:00 p.m.
- April 8 at 12:00 p.m.

Please register on the College Board [webinar registration page](#) or email for more information.

### Call for Presentations

ACTE is accepting presentation proposals for ACTE CareerTech VISION 2020, the premier event for career and technical educators, business leaders, and industry professionals, **December 2 through 5, 2020** in Nashville, Tennessee. We are seeking presentation proposals that cover a wide variety of high-quality secondary and postsecondary CTE in all program areas along with stories of successful education and business collaborations. Sessions are typically 60 minutes in length, and presenters receive a speaker discount on the VISION early bird registration rate. **The deadline for presentation**

proposal submissions is Feb. 29, 2020. Please visit the [conference web page](#) for more information.

## **2020 Super Summer Institute**

During the Super Summer Institute, secondary and postsecondary educators have the opportunity to attend regional training sessions--some culminating in industry-based certifications. Registration opens in [Eventbrite](#) on March 3. Registration for National Emergency Services Academy closes on April 17. All others close on May 11. Note: School systems are responsible for all travel expenses, textbooks, and the registration fee of \$250 per session. School systems may use their Career Development Funds or 2019-2020 Carl Perkins Funds to pay the fee.

Additional training opportunities for universal courses are under development. Please visit the [Jump Start training calendar](#) to learn about additional training opportunities related to NCCER, ESRI Industry-Based Certification, and other related topics. For more information, please email [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

## **2020 Teacher Leader Summit**

The [2020 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place May 27-29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. [Registration](#) occurs in three phases: early bird registration (January 10 through March 1, 2020), regular registration (March 2 through May 11, 2020), and on-site registration.

For more information please email [louisianaleacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleacherleaders@la.gov).

---

## **Middle and High School News**

### **Exploring Degrees in Psychology**

Psychology.org supplies information on college preparation, psychology degrees, and financial aid. The psychology degree tools help students understand psychology program requirements, scholarships, and ultimate career outlook. Examples topics include Becoming a Sports Psychologist:

- [What Is Sports Psychology?](#)
- [What Does a Sports Psychologist Do?](#)

Please visit the [About](#) page for more information about the organization and its submission policies.

### **SCA Final Dual Enrollment Reporting**

Reporting for SCA/Course Choice dual enrollment courses ends at noon on March 1. Schools should log into the [SCA/Course Choice Reporting System](#) to ensure all dual enrollment registrations with colleges and universities are accurate. Any SCA funds not allocated will be reallocated to other school systems. Please email [sca@la.gov](mailto:sca@la.gov) for assistance.

### **Jump Start Summers 2020**

Jump Start Summers programs are available to launch summer training sessions for students to earn Carnegie credit, statewide basic or advanced credentials, participate in work-based learning, and earn a stipend for participation. The [2020 Jump Start Summers application](#) is now available. The priority application deadline is February 28. For more information please email [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

### **Financial Aid Planning**

The LDOE has staff available to assist seniors with financial aid planning and FAFSA completion to meet graduation requirements. Please visit the LDOE Financial Aid Planning [web page](#) or email [ldefinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov) for assistance.

---

## **In Case You Missed It**

[GOV. EDWARDS JOINS SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA LEADERS TO KICK OFF 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE WORK](#) (Office of the Governor)

[ROOM WITH AN 'AHH": COLLEGES ARE GIVING STUDENTS THEIR OWN SPACE TO DECOMPRESS](#) (The Washington Post)

[LOUISIANA REINVENTING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; 'THERE IS HONOR IN ALL PATHWAYS'](#) (The Advocate)

[IS COLLEGE FOR EVERYONE? Interview with Ken Bradford](#) (WWL First News)

[LOUISIANA SUPERINTENDENT CALLS FOR RESTRUCTURING CAREER EDUCATION](#) (The Center Square)

---