

COUNSELOR CONNECT



A Publication for
Louisiana's Professional
SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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Counseling Team Spotlight: Carly Rogers and Mary Speed



Carly Rogers and Mary Speed

Dear Colleagues,

Whether you've been in education for one year or 30, lately, every day may feel like the first day of school. We are fortunate to be part of a flexible team with a supportive administration as we navigate this new school year's complexities: COVID-19 policies and procedures, virtual and hybrid learning, national civil unrest, and natural disasters. Even in the strongest teams, sometimes it's hard knowing where to begin.

As the school counselor and social worker, we are constantly collaborating: discussing how to adapt and best support our school community. We work with groups such as [Project Fleur de Lis](#), a nonprofit organization in the New Orleans area that provides professional development and evidenced-based programming for school mental health professionals. They are our department's strongest partner. During quarantine, we adopted their "Community Circles" format and held weekly check-ins with our staff members. The check-ins offered a space for staff to come together, listen, and reflect on what was going on for us in the moment. As weekly check-ins relaunch this school year, our hope is that in an ever-changing school environment, we continue to build community and validate feelings--whatever they may be. Prioritizing staff well-being builds upon the compassion we have for our learners and families, and fosters the compassion we want them to extend to themselves. In addition to school-wide staff check-ins, our lower school decided to dive headfirst into the [MindUP](#) curriculum as it best aligns with our school's mission and vision. Not only is this program a guide for building our learners' prosocial skills, it helps strengthen ongoing development for our staff.

When determining how to best support our school communities, any of us can feel inundated with information. Once we narrow our search to the organizations that align with our priorities, it's easier to find the resources that work best for our school. Collaboration is more important now than ever, and we would love to connect with your counseling team to exchange resources! Please check out the [list of resources](#) we use most often and let us know what is working for you.

Mary M. Speed, MA, NCC, LPC
School Counselor, Young Audiences Charter School
[LSCA](#) Middle Level Vice-President

Carly C. Rogers, LCSW-BACS
School Social Worker, Young Audiences Charter School

Census 2020

Your Students Count!

[Statistics in Schools](#) educational resources are designed to support your efforts to ensure every student in your school is counted in the 2020 Census. Self-responses can be completed [online](#), by phone or by mail until **September 30, 2020**. Learn more at [2020census.gov](#).

Student Opportunities

2021 Students of the Year Program

In conjunction with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the LDOE annually honors one incredible fifth, eighth, and twelfth grade student based on leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community. The upcoming Students of the Year webinar will provide information about program guidelines and the student selection process. Preregistration is not required.

Webinar Date and Time: September 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99474941684pwd=cUx0M1dmaDVSZStxUEXJamlvTDZqUT09>

Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923

Meeting ID#: 994 7494 1684

Meeting Password: 547253

The deadline for school systems to submit the [School System Information Form](#) is October 16. Please review the recently revised [Students of the Year Selection Guidelines](#) and [Student Application Packet](#) for more information. Email inquiries to marian.johnson@la.gov.

Professional Opportunities

LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute

Save the date for the 2020 Virtual Fall Counselor Institute! **Please set aside three hours on the day and time that works best for your schedule.**

Webinar Date and Time: October 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99489510512?pwd=SFhYdXNCEl6bjlvaWpyeVYvRFJ2dz09>

Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 994 8951 0512

Passcode: 0y76V7

Webinar Date and Time: October 29 at 8:00 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98233548776?pwd=bStTVlhmVGU5NTILL2xnUGthZFBWQT09>

Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 982 3354 8776

Passcode: 26PB##

Webinar Date and Time: October 29 at 12:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97179412692?pwd=UWN4SEFScVBGbnREOVNvdndtMG9zUT09>

Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 971 7941 2692

Passcode: !zzUj3

Tentative Agenda

- State Assessment Updates
- 2020-2021 LOSFA TOPS Regulatory Flexibilities
- ACT Superscore
- Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, IB, CLEP
- 2020-2021 Financial Aid
- TOPS Weighted GPA and Credit Recovery
- Jump Start 2.0/STEM Pathways
- Jump Start Convention/Educator Leader Summit

Email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for more information.

Virtual Forums from Cross State High School Collaborative

The Cross State High School Collaborative (CSHSC) is presenting virtual forums to support educators, students and parents through the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.

Conversation Cafe for Teachers

The [Conversation Cafe](#) at **2:00 p.m. on September 17** is a forum to share ideas, insights, and questions as schools experience opening in a variety of remote, hybrid, and face-to-face environments.

Forum on Supporting Students' Social, Emotional, and Academic Development

Dr. Robert Balfanz of the Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University, will lead a [special forum](#) and provide practical, evidence-based action steps for supporting students' social, emotional, and academic development at **2:00 p.m. on September 24**.

Please visit the CSHSC [Upcoming Events](#) web page for more information; see the [Virtual Forums](#) page for recordings of past forums.

Webinar Series: Keeping Students On Track During COVID-19

Hosted by Talent Development Secondary (TDS), this four-part webinar series presents practical steps that schools can take to implement early warning indicator and response systems. The kick-off webinar on **September 23** will explore promising practices for monitoring and increasing student attendance and engagement in remote or hybrid learning environments. Please visit the [TDS website](#) for more information.

Louisiana Counseling Association 2020 Virtual Conference

The Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA) has contracted with [Trusted Provider Network](#) to host the LCA Annual Fall Conference completely online, **October 4-6, 2020**. The 2020 theme is How Do We Know We Are Good at What We Do? Please visit the LCA [conference web page](#) for more information.

College and Career Readiness Workshops

ACT is offering state-specific ACT College and Career Readiness Workshops (CCRW) in an online format at 9:00 a.m. on **September 25 and October 1, 2020**. Two national CCRW webinars are also available. These free professional development opportunities provide information about enhancements to ACT products and services and present new ways to use data to help your students build their futures. Register at www.act.org/ccrw.

ACT Certified Educator Workshops

ACT Certified Educator (ACE) workshops will have a virtual delivery option beginning October 2020. ACE is a professional learning and credentialing program designed to teach effective ACT education pedagogy. ACT Certified Educators are professionals who reach the high standards required for certification and are fully equipped to support student learning in the core content areas.

Middle and High School News

#WhyApply Day

College application season is beginning, and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) invites school counselors to participate in [#WhyApply](#) Day tomorrow, September 18. Put on your favorite gear from your undergraduate program and take this opportunity to share your college story. Get everyone involved. Tag LOSFA and American College Application Campaign (ACAC) and use the hashtag [#WhyApply](#), [#GeauxApply2020](#), and [#LCAAM](#). For [#WhyApply](#) resources and more information, visit the [Center for Equity in Learning](#) on the web.

Deadline Extended: SCA Course Choice Portal

The 2020-2021 SCA Portal has been rescheduled to close at **5:00 p.m. on September 25** for private provider fall and full-year enrollments. Higher education enrollments must be reported by 5:00 p.m. on October 9. The portal will reopen for Spring enrollments on November 23. Please email sca@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Fact Sheet Updates

The Department is continuing to release newly redesigned [Industry-Based Certification fact sheets](#). The fact sheets have been improved or have the following additions:

- industry-based certification (IBC) STS code and an example of each IBC
- certification resources to prepare for the exam
- system requirements for computer-based testing
- direct links to accommodations and language access information

Please email jumpstart@la.gov for more information.

Resources from the Louisiana Education Loan Authority

Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela), Louisiana's nonprofit college access resource, continues to provide free FAFSA Completion assistance and resources as well as two \$1,000 scholarship opportunities and low-cost education financing to Louisiana students and their families during these unprecedented times.

- Lela FAFSA helpline: (844) 463-2372
- [Lela FAFSA Completion Guide and Workbook](#)
- [Lela College Planning Checklist for Seniors](#)
- [Lela Parent Guide for Planning and Paying for College](#)
- [\\$1,000 Lela FAFSA Completion Scholarship opportunity](#)
- [\\$1,000 Lela Choose Louisiana Scholarship opportunity](#)
- [LelaCHOICE Supplemental Education Loan](#)

Please email info@lela.org with any questions.

In Case You Missed It

[STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. CADE BRUMLEY RELEASES STATEMENT ON LOUISIANA'S MOVE TO PHASE 3](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[LOUISIANA REOPENS 2019-2020 P-EBT APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILIES WHO DID NOT APPLY IN MAY AND JUNE](#) (Louisiana Believes)

[REMOTE LEARNING MAKES TAKING ATTENDANCE A CHALLENGE](#) (Wall Street Journal)

[WHY MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS CAN HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC](#) (eSchool News)

[USDA EXTENDS FREE MEALS FOR KIDS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020](#) (U.S. Department of Agriculture)