SCHEDULE OF SECTIONAL MEETINGS

2026 WSCA Conference

Thursday, November 5, 2026

SECTIONAL 1 – 7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

1. Empowering Student Leaders: Lessons from the JUSTIFY Summit
(High; General; Access/Opportunities)

Location: **Africa 10**

In this interactive workshop, school counselors will learn how to design and implement a youth-led leadership summit modeled after the JUSTIFY Summit, a collaboration of Dane County schools. Led by a practicing school counselor and Executive Director of JUSTIFY, participants will explore summit planning, student-led breakout design, and strategies to amplify authentic student voice. Using street data from the April 27, 2026 summit, attendees will gain practical tools to elevate youth leadership.

Presenter(s): Carri Hale, School Counselor, Verona Area School District

2. Resilient Conversations: Empowering Children and Families to talk about Death and Grief
(Elementary; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 20**

Loss is a foundational part of the human experience often complicated by a lack of open dialogue. This session provides counselors with practical tools and developmentally appropriate resources to support honest, compassionate conversations about death and grief. Participants will learn how to guide families in fostering emotional safety, resilience, and healthy expression while navigating loss in hopes of strengthening connection and healing within home and school communities.

Presenter(s): Kate Lange, Elementary School Counselor, Dubuque Community School District

3. Brewing Up Career Readiness: An Elementary Café Experience
(Elementary; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 30**

College and career readiness can be challenging to make meaningful and authentic at the elementary level. This session explores how Brooklyn Elementary's Courtyard Café brings career readiness to life through a real-world experience for 4th-grade students. Student baristas apply for their positions, identify personal strengths, and put EL Education's Habits of Character into practice while preparing and delivering staff drink orders. Through real responsibilities, students build skills in time management, communication, customer service, and problem-solving while strengthening connections, belonging, and a sense of purpose within their school community. Participants will leave with practical ideas for creating meaningful career-connected experiences in their own elementary settings.

Presenter(s): Kelli Massey, School Counselor, Oregon School District - Brooklyn Elementary School

4. Science Meets Heart - Using Neuroscience to Support the Whole Student
(Middle, High; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 40**

"I cannot fit anything else on my plate!" Have you heard or said that before? This session will help you

understand how The Neurosequential Model in Education, Collaborative and Proactive Solutions, Trauma Sensitive Schools, and Social Emotional Learning weave together under the umbrella of "Brain-Based Learning". They are not more items on the plate, they ARE the plate! Understanding these connections helps to shift perspective and create a new lens through which to view and support students.

Presenter(s): Jessica Pletcher, School Counselor, Fort Atkinson School District; Sarah Traut-Ebert, School Counselor, Fort Atkinson Middle School

5. Middle School Spiraled ACP Lessons and 8th Grade Conferencing for All
(Middle; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 50**

Does it feel daunting to implement ACP curriculum and Individual Planning Conferences at the middle level? Holmen Middle School Counselors would love to share their ACP and 8th Grade Conferencing framework. We will share our ACP 6th-8th grade spiraled lessons, including 4 year planning, and culminating in an 8th Grade Conference including the school counselor, students, and parents/guardians. We will also share tips on to increase engagement and participation for all student populations.

Presenter(s): Heather Retzlaff, School Counselor, School District of Holmen; Erica Kohlmeyer, School Counselor, School District of Holmen; Jen Dienger, School Counselor, School District of Holmen

6. Building Confident Futures: Designing Equitable Math Courses and Experiences
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 60**

High school mathematics course sequences can be equitable, innovative, and intentionally designed to build student confidence for post-secondary success. Currently the PK-12 and the Universities of Wisconsin institutions along with the field are working together and school counselors play a critical role in guiding students toward the right pathways. This session empowers counselors to champion coherent PK-20 mathematics systems.

Presenter(s): Jessica Sloan, Consultant - CTE Data Education, WI Dept of Public Instruction; Mary Mooney, Mathematics Education Consultant, Lisa Hennessey, Lecturer, PhD Candidate

7. Sharing Program Results
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 70**

What difference is your school counseling program truly making, and who knows it? Too often, powerful impact goes unseen because results aren't shared in ways that resonate. In this session, learn how to use data to tell compelling stories of student success. Leave with practical templates and strategies to collect, communicate, and celebrate results so every educational partner clearly sees the difference your program makes.

Presenter(s): Mindy Willard, Senior Director of Partner Development, Hatching Results; Shelbey Deegan, School Counselor, Verona School District

8. Four Legs Are Better Than Two: Proposing and Implementing a Successful School Therapy Dog Program
(K-12; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 80**

Do you want to think outside the box when supporting students with something that can benefit not only your students' social/emotional wellbeing but elevate that of the entire school? Do you believe in the power/healing presence of our four legged friends? Join us for this informative session and learn how to create a School Therapy Dog Proposal and see what an effective and impactful program looks like, and enjoy some snuggles from our therapy dog, Franny!

Presenter(s): Kortnie Ruth, School Counselor, Westosha Central High School; Heidi Zavacke, School Counselor, Westosha Central High School; Elisa Rosenick, School Counselor, Westosha Central High School; Nicole Selburg, School Counselor, Westosha Central High School

9. A Newcomer's Guide to the WSCA Conference
(K-12; General; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 90**

Join us for a special welcome orientation designed for first-time attendees, ensuring you make the most of your time with us. This session will provide an in-depth look at the conference agenda, highlight the session schedule, and offer strategies for effective networking. You'll also learn how to navigate the event app, connect with experienced mentors, and find your way around the venue. This is the perfect opportunity to meet fellow newcomers and start building your professional network.

Presenter(s): WSCA Leaders

10. The Work-Based Learning Blueprint: Simple Steps to Stronger Programs
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Guava**

Work-based learning (WBL) is more than student employment—it is a structured educational experience that prepares students for success beyond high school. This interactive session unpacks Wisconsin DPI's six core criteria for high-quality, data-reportable work-based learning and provides practical guidance for implementation. Through real-world examples and ready-to-use resources, participants will explore strategies for strengthening existing programs, ensuring compliance, and creating meaningful experiences for students.

Presenter(s): Lindsay Allen, Career & Technical Education Specialist, CESA 7; David Gordon, Director of Career & Technical Education, CESA 7; Danielle Wahlen, Business Specialist, NEWYA/CESA 7

11. Pause with Purpose: Building a School-Based Wellness Center
(K-12; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Portia**

With over 600 student visits in one semester, discover how ACMS launched and expanded a school-based Wellness Center that offers students a space to reset, relax and recharge when feeling overwhelmed. This session highlights planning steps, data-informed practices, access structures, and tiered supports that transformed a building space into a proactive resource. Participants will leave with practical ideas to implement a Wellness Center that promotes emotional regulation and readiness to learn.

Presenter(s): Allison Prather, School Couselor, Asa Clark Middle School; Brianna Rembert, School Counselor, Asa Clark Middle School

12. Creative Counseling Curriculum: Engaging K–12 Students Through Innovative Individual, Classroom, and Small Group Practices
(K-12; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Tamarind**

This interactive session provides school counselors with creative curriculum ideas for engaging students through individual counseling, classroom lessons, and small groups. Participants will explore developmentally appropriate activities that support social-emotional learning, academic success, and career readiness. The session emphasizes practical, ready-to-use strategies that increase participation and foster connection, leaving attendees with adaptable tools for immediate implementation.

Presenter(s): Kari Erickson, School Counselor, Greenfield High School; Leah Martone, School Counselor, Yorkville Elementary

13. Girls on the Run: A Life-Changing Program for Girls in Grades 3-8 that is so much more than Running
(Elementary, Middle; General; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Wisteria**

Girls on the Run is a nonprofit that inspires girls in grades 3 through 8 to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running and movement. The curricula are delivered by trained volunteer coaches with conversation-based lessons. The 10-week season culminates with a Community Impact Project and end-of-season 5K Celebration. The finish line is just the beginning! This sectional will display the lasting impact GOTR has on pre-teen girls.

Presenter(s): Tiffany Schuette, School Counselor, New Holstein School District; Tania Spofford, Executive Director, Girls on the Run of Northeast Wisconsin

OPENING SESSION
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Keynote Speaker – Paul Harris
Africa East

SECTIONAL 2 – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
SECTIONAL 2 INTENSIVE – 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

14. Designing Accessible Career Based Learning Experiences for All From the Start
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 10**

Discover how to intentionally design Academic and Career Planning (ACP) and Career Based Learning Experiences (CBLEs) rooted in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) from day one. This session explores proactively building accessible curricula, cultivating inclusive employer partnerships, and crafting messaging that champions equity and access. Learn to create seamless work-based learning pathways that remove barriers for marginalized populations and empower all students.

Presenter(s): Stephanie O'Connor-Reiser, Career & Transition Coordinator, Nicolet Union School District

15. The ART of Regulation
(K-12; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 20**

Designed for school counselors and grounded in neuroscience, this sectional explores how creative practices can calm the nervous system, strengthen connection, and support student well-being.

Participants will experience easy, low-pressure art activities that help reduce stress, restore focus, and cultivate emotional safety for both counselors and students.

Presenter(s): Laura Adameak, Assistant Director, Gradaute Counseling Program, Concordia University Wisconsin

16i. It's Elementary: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention for Younger Students
(Elementary; Professional; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 30**

Starting early and building strong systems of support are essential components of mental health promotion and suicide prevention. This session addresses universal prevention programming as well as interventions for students who need additional supports and services. Participants will explore developmentally appropriate strategies, practices, and systems-level approaches designed to meet the needs of elementary-aged students.

Presenter(s): Andrea Donegan, School Counseling Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Mindy Willard, Senior Director, Partner Services, Hatching Results

17i. Creating Connection: Building Adoption & Foster Friendly Schools
(K-12; Introductory; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 40**

When students with complex family stories walk into a school, what signals true belonging? Students impacted by adoption, foster care, and kinship care are in every building, yet common school routines can unintentionally exclude those navigating grief, identity shifts, and instability. Schools have the potential to be powerful partners in healing. This session equips K-12 counselors and emotional support professionals with practical, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) aligned strategies to build hope-filled, resiliency-oriented environments.

Presenter(s): Laura Adams,Founder and President, iCARE4 Adoptive And Foster Families

18. Jump Start Body Confidence Lessons using the Dove Self-Esteem Project
(Middle; General; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 50**

Are you providing lessons on body confidence, puberty, self-esteem, or appearance discrimination with small groups or full classes? This session will show participants how they can use the free Dove Self-Esteem curriculum as a springboard into these sometimes hard to teach topics. In this session, you will explore the curriculum AND practice the hands-on activities incorporated into the lessons. Participants will also get examples of how to use the curriculum to jump start conversations at home or in your office.

Presenter(s): Patricia Zemke, National Board Certified Health Educator, 2022 WI Teacher of the Year, Health Educator, Wausau School District and Dove Self-Esteem Project Cadre Member

19. Be Our Hope Heroes: We Are More Than Just Our Brains!
(K-12; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 60**

Gifted students are often brilliant and quirky, and sometimes highly unpredictable. School counselors and general education teachers are rarely trained to work with the unique needs of this population. Additionally, teachers and parents/caregivers often ask counselors to guide and support them on the vital journey of developing both academic and social/emotional needs in these children and adolescents. Choose this workshop to enhance your skillset in working with all students!

Presenter(s): Jackie Drummer, CEO Education Works! and WATG Board Advisor, Education Works! and Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted

20i. Sextortion - Online Threats Facing Today's Youth
(Middle, High; Introductory; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 70**

Understanding and defining "Sextortion", the impact of 5G vs. 4G, how AI takes fakes to real, why today's youth are the victims of this on-line crime. Who are the predators, how do they establish a relationship with victim, what is the ultimate goal of the predator. Learn the types of Sextortion, targeted genders, and resources if Sextortion happens from FBI and Local Law Enforcement.

Presenter(s): Kris Pierce, Retired 25 year coporate trainer, retired/ lead in non-profit organization for 13 years. 5-stones Fox Valley, Appleton Wisconsin; Debby Suchyta, Volunteer, 5-stones Fox Valley

21. Stepping into Leadership: Pathways for School Counselors
(High; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 80**

This session explores practical pathways for school counselors to step into leadership roles and influence school culture. Drawing on experience as a club advisor, department chair, and SBLT lead, the presenter will share strategies for leading initiatives, amplifying student voice, and advocating for equity. Attendees will discover concrete ways to fulfill the ASCA School Counselor theme of Leadership while leaving with actionable ideas to make a meaningful impact in their schools.

Presenter(s): Carri Hale, School Counselor, Verona Area High School

22. Army ROTC Scholarship and Benefits
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 90**

Present the benefits of US Army ROTC directed towards high school seniors and incoming college Freshmen. The presentation will focus on the scholarship application process, life as a Senior ROTC college student/Cadet, and what to expect after college graduation.

Presenter(s): Craig Giese, UW Madison Recruiting Operations Officer, US Army ROTC

23. Systems Save Sanity: Freeing Counselors to Do What They Do Best
(Elementary; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Guava**

When everything feels urgent, counselors become default responders. This session explores how a clear behavior motto, a strong tiered system, consistent data collection, structured behavior collaboratives, and focused pupil services meetings create clarity and shared ownership. Learn how aligning systems reduces crisis-driven work and protects counseling time.

Presenter(s): Kristin Kozelek, School Counselor, Kaukauna Area School District; Autumn Steif, Principal, New Directions Learning Community

24i. It Takes a Village: A Community Approach to Youth Mental Health in a Digital Age
(K-12; Expert; Leadership/Advocacy; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Portia**

Families and schools are navigating the impact of smartphones, social media, and constant

connectivity on youth mental health. Rather than waiting for policy shifts or mandates, school counselors, educators, and community stakeholders launched an Anxious Generation book study at a public library sparking dialogue and action. What began as a single community initiative quickly expanded as neighboring districts brought the conversation to their own schools and communities to better support youth.

Presenter(s): Madeline Vinzant, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Counselor Education, Winona State University; Abby Fernan, Chief Experience Officer for the LIFToFFS Learning Collaborative and Director of Student Services, Prevention, & Wellness, CESA 4

25. Using ACP to be Future Ready - Elementary Edition
(Elementary; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Tamarind**

Have you ever asked a student, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Academic and Career Planning (ACP) helps students build the habits, routines, and skills needed to become future-ready. Beyond preparing for college, ACP connects academic achievement with essential skills for long-term success. Learn how to promote ACP in elementary school and inspire deeper thinking with a more meaningful question: "How do you want to change the world?"

Presenter(s): Mindy Ganser, School Counselor, Watertown Unified School District; Kelly Cunningham, School Counselor, Watertown Unified School District

26. Hot Tips: Save Time for Your Comprehensive Program by Saving Time
(High; Professional; Access/Opportunities)

Location: **Wisteria**

This presentation will include 7-10 "hot tips" and time-savers identified by the high school counseling team at Brookfield Central to expand reach and reduce administrative burdens, increasing time for planning and running a comprehensive program. Examples are mainly techy and may include AI prompts, keyboard shortcuts, and scholarship organization strategies. The final 30 minutes will feature an "ed-camp style" collaborative worktime, allowing attendees to share their own hot tips or seek solutions for their school's time suckers.

Presenter(s): Heather Lemke, School Counselor, Brookfield Central High School; Leah Devine, School Counselor, Brookfield Central High School

LUNCH & LEARN – 11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

27. All About AmeriCorps
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 10**

Learn how AmeriCorps can be a good option for your students after high school (gap year, summer employment, transitional employment, post-college) by helping them earn an education award, gain job skills and experience in multiple fields, forge relationships, and make a difference for others. Individuals serving with AmeriCorps participate in a term of national service while earning a living stipend and an education award to use towards post-secondary education costs or student loan repayment.

Presenter(s): Kyle Clower, Executive Director, Serve Wisconsin

28. Introduction to Badger Boys State
(High; Introductory; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 20**

An introduction to the Badger Boys State. This is an American Legion sponsored program for Male students between their junior and senior year. The program teaches the attendees about civics, government, and leadership through a government simulation.

Presenter(s): Richard I Engen Jr, Retired special education teacher with a masters in Emotional Behavioral Disabilities, Recruiter, Badger Boys State

29. Operating Engineer Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities for High School Students
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 80**

Learn how your students can take online pre-apprenticeship classes that will provide not only high school credit but also advanced standing technical college credit and Operating Engineer Registered Apprenticeship credit. Help them get a jump start on a rewarding career!

Presenter(s): Mindy Mulryan, Workforce Development Director, Building Wisconsin Together

30. How the Trauma of Cancer Made Me a More Effective Counselor
(K-12; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 90**

In April 2025 I was diagnosed with cancer. The journey with the diagnosis helped me to be a more effective counselor. My belief that everything I do professionally requires a purpose was put to the test. This session will explore some of the lessons I learned and how they might apply to you and your work.

Presenter(s): Mark Gillen, Professor Emeritus, CEO, Solution Focused Counseling and Coaching

31. A Second Chance at Success: Inside the Wisconsin Challenge Academy
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Portia**

A tuition-free program for Wisconsin youth ages 16-18 who are struggling to graduate from high school. Located on the Fort McCoy Army installation, we use the structure and discipline of the military to provide Cadets the foundation for the future they want and deserve. While attending high school classes, we train and mentor out teens to change the direction of their lives and develop the strength of character and life skills necessary to build a successful future.

Presenter(s): Challenge Academy Staff and Cadets, Challenge Academy

32. Learning to Breathe: Using Data to Guide Small-Group Anxiety Interventions for High School Students
(High; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Tamarind**

Running small groups in high school isn't easy - between limited student buy-in and our packed calendars, they often fall off the radar. In this session, we'll share how we leveraged multiple data sources and the "Learning to Breathe" curriculum to successfully implement an anxiety coping skills group in our high school. Participants will exchange strategies, explore practical tools, and leave with a clear, actionable plan for launching meaningful small groups in their own schools.

Presenter(s): Alison Oosterhuis, School Counselor, River Falls High School; Reagan Stocker, School Counselor, River Falls High School

SECTIONAL 3 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
SECTIONAL 3 INTENSIVE – 12:45 – 2:15 p.m.

88. Navigating Tricky Ethical Situations in School Counseling
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 10**

Ethical dilemmas rarely have easy answers. Through real-world scenarios and discussion, explore how to navigate complex situations involving competing responsibilities, apply the ASCA Ethical Standards, and use consultation and ethical decision-making strategies to make informed decisions that prioritize students.

Presenter(s): Stacy Eslick, MSSW, Executive Director, WSCA

34. The Next Frontier for Academic and Career Planning in Wisconsin
(K-12; General; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 20**

Wisconsin has built a strong foundation in Academic and Career Planning over the past decade. Find out how our state will take ACP to the next level over the next ten years by hearing from districts that are already implementing the innovative, future-focused strategies needed to ensure every graduate is equipped with the skills needed for success in careers, community, and lifelong learning.

Presenter(s): Karin Smith, ACP and Dual Enrollment Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Adriana Plach, Director of Innovation and Continuous Improvement, Pewaukee School District; Tom McCarty, Director of Innovation and Strategic Growth, Mosinee School District; Beth Sternig, State Director at Xello; Candice Boutelle, Manager of Business and Industry Partnerships for Wisconsin at Xello; Sarah Tarpey, Xello Training Specialist, WI ACP at Xello

35. Building a Comprehensive Mental Health Programming MLSS
(K-12; General; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 30**

This session supports school counselors in strengthening a comprehensive Multi-Level System of Supports (MLSS) for student mental health and wellness. Participants will explore how to develop vertically aligned universal, targeted, and intensive supports that meet the diverse needs of students. Through practical strategies and examples, counselors will learn how to build mental health programming that promotes prevention, early intervention, and responsive support across grade levels.

Presenter(s): Marci Waldron-Kuhn, EdD, Director of Learning Services, CESA 7

36. TURTLE-Y AWESOME! Community Through Advisory: Culture Building and Universal ACP/SEL in HS Homerooms
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 40**

Creating a positive, productive community of learners is a goal for all educators; however, finding an effective way for staff to adopt and partake in important elements of many school counseling programs, including Academic and Career Planning and SEL, is a school-wide initiative that Franklin High School has been working toward for a number of years through their grade-specific Advisories. Come learn how the micro-communities of students built in FHS Advisories lend themselves to this goal.

Presenter(s): Amy Oost, M.Ed., School Counselor, Franklin High School

37. Supporting First-Generation Students' Educational Aspirations Through Practical Career Support
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 50**

First-generation students often face barriers that limit their educational aspirations. This session highlights how practical career support, such as guidance from role models and instrumental career-related assistance, can help reduce these barriers. Based on findings from a research study, we will share actionable strategies for school counselors. We aim to discuss how to provide career-focused support that strengthens and promotes the aspirations of prospective first-generation students.

Presenter(s): Gianna Jiwon Kim, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin - River Falls; Will Johnson, Emma Strong, and Ida-Ellen Dabruzzi, School Counseling Master's Students, University of Wisconsin - River Falls

38. Sustainable and Time-Smart Strategies for High-Frequency Student Visits
(High; General; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 60**

GOT FREQUENT VISITORS? This sectional focuses on practical tools that help counselors support emotional regulation and problem-solving without requiring a full meeting for every visit. Counselors will explore strategies that validate students' feelings and needs while encouraging independence, resilience, and self-awareness. Participants will learn how to implement brief interventions that allow students to feel supported -- like independent check-in sheets and self guided grounding tools.

Presenter(s): Monica Wagner, School Counselor, Sun Prairie West High School; Keith Medema, School Counselor, Sun Prairie West High School

39i. Enhancing your Group Counseling Skills - Effectively Adding to Your Skill Set
(K-12; Professional; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 70**

This session provides ideas on how to "jump start" your small group opportunities using group theory basics and reminders, as well as tips on how to increase the effectiveness of small groups. The presentation will include opportunities to engage in group activities while considering how groups function.

Presenter(s): Mark Gillen, Professor Emeritus, CEO, Solution Focused Counseling and Coaching

40. Building a Positive School Community
(Middle; General; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 80**

Building a positive community in your building isn't the responsibility of one individual and can't be created alone - it takes a village! Participants will explore practical strategies for fostering belonging, strengthening relationships, and promoting student and staff well-being. Through real examples and interactive discussion, attendees will leave with actionable tools to support inclusive climates, boost morale, and align counseling practices with schoolwide culture goals.

Presenter(s): Denys Mallmann, Masters in School Social Work, School Counselor, Chilton Public Schools; Sarah Rusch, Social Studies Teacher, Chilton Middle School; Brittni Nelson, Art Teacher, Chilton Middle School

41. Finding a Child's Third Place
(Elementary; Introductory; Access/Opportunities)

Location: **Africa 90**

A first place is home, a second place is school or work, and a third place is where students pursue a sport, club, friend group, or hobby... something to look forward to, and often a source of meaning. As counselors, we work with students who feel depressed, alone, bored, or are navigating trauma. Many lack access to safe spaces outside school and turn to hiding online instead of finding their third place. It's time to change that.

Presenter(s): Brian McCusker, School Counselor, Wisconsin Rapids School District

42i. AI-Powered Productivity: Freeing Up Time for What Matters Most
(K-12; Introductory; Access/Opportunities; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Guava**

Feeling overwhelmed as a school counselor? You're not alone. This hands-on session moves into real-time application of beginner-friendly AI tools for counseling work. Use AI to draft lesson plans, build group materials, streamline documentation, and craft family communications. We'll cover AI literacy, responsible use, and practical workflows so AI becomes a support, not a stressor. Leave with adaptable prompts and strategies to reclaim time for what matters most: students.

Presenter(s): Abby Fernan, Director of Student Services, Prevention & Wellness, CESA 4

43. From Surface Behavior to Root Cause: Practical FBA Strategies for Secondary Counselors
(Middle, High; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Portia**

FBAs are common in middle and high schools but can feel daunting without a shared understanding and consistent process. This session strengthens core FBA principles, introduces root cause analysis as a structured problem-solving approach, and examines how equity considerations shape behavior decision-making. Using middle and high school case studies, participants will leave with practical strategies to support MLSS and IEP team discussions.

Presenter(s): Becky Steensen, School Psychologist, CESA 7; Katie Tennessen, Behavior Specialist, CESA 7

44i. KEEP IT CRISP: Compassion, Resilience, Integrity, Self-Respect, and Persistence
(Elementary; Professional; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Tamarind**

Behavior doesn't change because we say it louder. It changes when we teach it clearly. In this engaging sectional, school counselors will learn how to use a shared values framework to create consistency, strengthen relationships, and reduce reactive discipline. No binders. No complicated systems. Just powerful language, practical tools, and real culture change. You'll leave with ready-to-use scripts, small-group prompts, and culture-building strategies that align counseling with climate.

Presenter(s): Kenda ROMAN, School Counselor, One City Schools

45i. A Closer Look at How School Practices Impact Mental Health
(K-12; Professional; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Wisteria**

This session explores how everyday habits and expectations shape the mental health of students and staff alike. Participants will consider alternative approaches that better support wellbeing across the school community, leaving with practical ideas to bring back to their own schools.

Presenter(s): Holly Hughes Stoner, LMFT, The Wellness Compass

SECTIONAL 4 – 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
SECTIONAL 4 INTENSIVE – 2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

46. Disrupting Identity Forclosure in Black Male Students
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 10**

Black male student-athletes are often hypervisible in sport yet invisible in their full humanity. This session explores how school counselors can disrupt identity foreclosure by supporting students' academic, emotional, and career development. Drawing on interdisciplinary research and practice, participants will examine how race, masculinity, and athletics intersect in schools - and leave with strengths-based, antiracist strategies to affirm multidimensional identity, expand postsecondary possibilities, and build more equitable counseling practices.

Presenter(s): Paul Harris, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University

47i. Yes, You Can!! Ramping as an Only
(Elementary; Introductory; Access/Opportunities; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 20**

For many overscheduled counselors, the thought of doing one more thing seems overwhelming. However, implementing a comprehensive school counseling program helps you work smarter, not harder. High caseloads and working in isolation make the case even stronger. I will share ways to achieve RAMP despite caseloads of 700 and working alone; it can be done!

Presenter(s): Stacey Miller, EdS, School Counselor, Buford Elementary

48i. Spill the Tea on ADHD: Practical Tools for Effective Support
(K-12; Introductory; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 30**

Explore ADHD through a strengths-based, equity-informed lens. Deepen understanding of how ADHD impacts attention, executive functioning, emotional regulation, and behavior across the lifespan. Grounded in neuroscience, reframe movement not as disruption, but as a powerful regulation tool. Learn how the nervous system drives behavior and how strategies such as breathwork, cross-lateral movement, grounding, and sensory integration can increase focus, reduce overwhelm, and support self-regulation.

Presenter(s): Judy Richardson-Mahre, CEO, LMFT, Kaleidoscope Coaching & Counseling; Kathy Flaminio, Founder/CEO, movemindfully

49. The Courage to Reframe: Using Neuroscience and Executive Functioning to Move Beyond "Compliance"
(Elementary; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 40**

In today's schools, behavior challenges often reflect nervous system states rather than willful defiance. This session introduces how brain states and executive functioning shape student behavior. Participants will learn to recognize regulation states, reframe common behaviors as lagging skills, and use brain-aligned strategies that foster felt safety, connection, and student agency - creating the conditions for learning and growth.

Presenter(s): Katie Tennessen, Behavior Specialist, CESA 7

50. Growing Up Online: Headline Stress, Digital Exposure, and the Impact on Middle School Learning
(Middle; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 50**

Middle school students are growing up in a digital world marked by constant exposure to alarming news, social media, and crisis-driven headlines. This session explores headline stress and its impact on adolescent anxiety, attention, and learning. Participants will gain practical school counseling strategies to help students build media awareness, emotional regulation skills, and healthy technology habits that support well-being and academic engagement.

Presenter(s): Madeline Vinzant, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Counselor Education, Winona State University; Claire DuVal, Master's Student Counselor-in-Training, Winona State; Patrick Backman, Master's Student Counselor-in-Training, Winona State

51i. Appreciative Advising
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 60**

This session will provide an engaging overview of Appreciative Advising, a theory-to-practice framework for building trusting relationships with students. The presentation is based on the book, The Appreciative Advising Revolution, which the presenter co-authored. The six phases of Appreciative Advising: Disarm, Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver, and Don't Settle will be defined, and specific behaviors and questions for each phase will be shared that you can immediately begin to use.

Presenter(s): Jennifer Bloom, Ed.D., Professor, Florida Atlantic University

52. Building Bright Futures: The Hodag Journey to College & Career Success
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 70**

Learn how the School District of Rhinelander is creating a comprehensive system that prepares every student for success beyond graduation. This presentation highlights the district's 6-12 innovative approach to academic and career planning through Hodag Pathways, hands-on career exploration, and meaningful partnerships with local business and industry leaders, community organizations, and technical & higher education institutions.

Presenter(s): Lexi Allen, District College & Career Counselor, School District of Rhinelander; Tracy Hoffhein, High School Counselor, School District of Rhinelander; Kelly Kubacki, High School Counselor, School District of Rhinelander

53i. School Counseling Greatest Hits, The 2 Disc Collection
(K-12; Professional; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 80**

This workshop takes a in-depth with practical strategies and concepts that can be applied across K–12 settings. Through real-world scenarios, guided discussion, and hands-on practice, participants will explore effective approaches for addressing student anxiety, motivation, focus, and perspective taking. Attendees will leave with actionable tools and techniques they can immediately implement in their work with students. School counselors play a vital role in supporting the well-being and success of the next generation. Drawing on their extensive experience and commitment to the field, Jennifer and Jen will provide encouragement, insight, and practical guidance to help you navigate this challenging and rewarding work.

Presenter(s): Jennifer Worley, LPC, Psychotherapist, Peace Child Coaching and Consulting; Jennifer Betters Bubon, Professor and Department Chair, UW-Whitewater

54. The Function You Serve: Your Role in Shaping Mathematics Pathways
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 90**

College-readiness in math is fundamental to college success. This session will discuss ways Direct Admit Wisconsin identifies college-ready math courses for admission purposes. We will discuss how high school counselors, math teachers, curriculum directors and staff that assist with state reporting play a critical role in identifying college-ready math courses and shaping students' math pathways. This session will introduce various tools and strategies.

Presenter(s): Corina Diaz-Suazo, J.D., Strategic Enrollment and Transfer Specialist, Universities of Wisconsin; Holly Cho, Project Manager for Strategic Enrollment Initiatives, Direct Admit Wisconsin

55. The Hope Effect: How School Counselors Lead Emotional Culture in Schools
(Elementary; General; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Guava**

School counselors are emerging as emotional leaders who influence school culture through hope, connection, and relational practices. This session highlights how counselors intentionally lead beyond student support to impact adult mindset, classroom climate, and systems-level change. Participants will learn practical strategies to embed hope into daily interactions, strengthen staff capacity, and cultivate a school culture grounded in belonging, resilience, and collective well-being.

Presenter(s): Kate Willems, School Counselor and Instructional Coach, St. Robert Catholic School

56. Making the Connection: ACP and WTCS Pathways
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Portia**

School counselors are experts in helping students explore careers through ACP, but translating those interests into concrete postsecondary options can be challenging. This interactive session will help counselors better understand WTCS pathways, credentials, and career connections while providing ways to practice guiding students from career interests to educational and workforce outcomes.

Presenter(s): Molly Hundt, High School Admissions Coach, Western Technical College; Bethany Jacobson, Admissions Coach, Western Technical College; Kaye Woodke, Southwest Technical College

57. Beyond Optimism: Enacting Critical Hope in School Counseling
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Tamarind**

This reflective session reframes hope as action. Centering critical hope, participants move beyond passive optimism toward awareness, responsibility, and change. Holding space for despair and compassionate change, and the implications for school counselors and their communities, facilitators explore justice-oriented, ethical, and context-responsive examples, allowing participants to ground in a vision of hope that drives meaningful impact within PK-12 school realities.

Presenter(s): Riley Drake, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Stout; Laura Mason-Marshall, Graduate student in school counseling, UW-Stout; Nicole Rizzo, Elementary School Counselor, Flynn Elementary School - ECASD; Emily Sies-Mandel, Elementary School Counselor, Eau Claire Area School District

58. Maslow and the Power of Positive Connections
(High; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Wisteria**

Looking for new ways to get in the minds of your students? Mental health screeners identify risk but they don't measure belonging. This presentation explores how school counselors can use Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and structured connection data to strengthen Tier 1 supports within MTSS. Participants will learn a practical framework for measuring positive connections, and leave with actionable tools to build data-informed systems that improve school climate and students' daily experiences.

Presenter(s): Dakota Kandler, School Counselor, Ripon High School

NUTRITION BREAK
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Exhibit Hall, Africa West

SECTIONAL 5 - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

59. Tiered & True: Leveling Up Your MLSS Data Game
(High; Introductory; Access/Opportunities)

Location: **Africa 10**

Move beyond "random acts of guidance." This session decodes Wisconsin's MLSS framework specifically for high school settings. You'll identify high-leverage data sources, from behavior to academics, and establish clear decision rules for Tier 2 and 3. Walk away with a practical roadmap to align your school's resources, ensure equitable student access, and use data to advocate for your program's impact.

Presenter(s): Ted Selker, Assessment & Data Specialist, CESA 7

60. Hopeful Schools: How Resilience Can Be Taught and Toughness Can Be Developed
(K-12; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 20**

"There is nothing you can do" is a prominent lie portrayed throughout social media and news headlines, and it's leaving kids hopeless and absent of skills necessary to face the inevitable challenges that life brings. This sectional will take a different approach to equity, by researching, reviewing, and implementing practical strategies for personal resilience. The content provided will not only influence professionals' counseling strategies, but also inform practical change at the school level.

Presenter(s): David Linsmeyer, School Counselor, St. Croix Central Elementary

61. The Big, Bad "B" Word
(K-12; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 30**

Tired of the angry emails and phone calls? Tired of parents and schools being at odds? Tired of all of the social division creeping into schools without a way to handle it? Tired of EVERYTHING being called "bullying"? Tired of the "same old same old" not working? Chris will show you the simple, fun, laugh-

out-loud methods to help unite schools and parents, and help students achieve unbelievable growth in social emotional learning and resilience!

Presenter(s): Chris Schuefele, Professional Speaker, Chris in the Classroom

62. State of the State
(K-12; General; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 40**

Join the WSCA Executive Director and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Counseling Consultant for an update on the state of school counseling. This session will highlight state and national updates related to student mental health, social emotional well being, academic and career planning, school climate and safety, ASCA Model developments, and other emerging trends impacting school counselors. Come hear what Stacy and Andrea are seeing across the state and beyond.

Presenter(s): Stacy Eslick, MSSW, Executive Director, WSCA; Andrea Donegan, School Counseling Consultant, WI DPI

63. 504 Share Shop
(Elementary; Professional; Access/Opportunities)

Location: **Africa 50**

Are you feeling overwhelmed with the process of case managing 504 Plans? This 504 Share Shop is an opportunity to share ideas during a facilitated discussion about what you do to make the process easier. Consider sharing how you manage the paperwork and brainstorm accommodation ideas with other school counselors!

Presenter(s): Amanda Kauth, School Counselor, School District of River Falls; Larissa Dreyer, School Counselor, River Falls School District

64. Calm Corners: Building Regulation, Resilience, and Readiness to Learn
(Elementary; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 60**

This sectional is for elementary school counselors seeking practical, Tier 1 strategies to support student self-regulation in the classroom. Participants will learn how to design and implement calm corners that are inclusive and consistent across grade levels. This session will show a step-by-step implementation process which includes collaborating with teachers, teaching student expectations, and selecting effective tools. Attendees will leave with resources to create amazing calm corner spaces!

Presenter(s): Ashley Doolittle, School Counselor, School District of Waukesha

65. Beyond the Diploma: A Model You Can Take Home!
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 70**

Graduation is the goal, but our work doesn't stop there. Through senior meetings, ACP events, and our summer melt program, we help students move from plan to action. Seniors leave with a diploma, a clear post-secondary plan, and ongoing support. Discover practical strategies you can adapt for your own building and close the gap between "accepted" and "arrived."

Presenter(s): Andrea Weckwerth, High School Counselor, Central High School

66. Burnout: Prevention and Implementation for Counselors and Staff
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 80**

Attendees will walk out of this presentation knowing how to recognize, respond to, and acknowledge burnout and how to implement a school-wide in-service day together for their staff members. Attendees will be given examples that are cost-effective and easily incorporated into most environments to educate colleagues in their building to better mental health.

Presenter(s): Carla Herried, CFD, School Counselor/Adjunct Professor, Hales Corners Lutheran School/Concordia University-WI; Jennifer Bargmann, LPC, Professional Counselor/Adjunct Professor, Concordia University-WI

67. What Can the WI Air National Guard Offer You and Your Students?!
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 90**

Learn what the Wisconsin Air National Guard has to offer your students. From free tuition benefits to affordable health insurance options, to networking opportunities that will set them up to thrive in whatever career field they choose to pursue, the ANG offers it all. Help your students make the best decision for themselves by attending this seminar and learning what you can about the WI ANG. The ANG allows its service members to serve AND maintain their civilian careers/lifestyles at the same time, setting your students up for a lifetime of success!

Presenter(s): Joline Powell, WI Air National Guard

68. Children's Wisconsin Bullying Prevention Resources - Reduce Bullying and Improve School Climate
(Elementary, Middle; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Guava**

Discover how Children's Wisconsin's free Bullying Prevention eLearning lessons can strengthen your school's approach to safety and well-being. These engaging K -12 resources help counselors teach students to recognize, prevent, and respond to bullying, including cyberbullying and sexual harassment. With ready to use activities and schoolwide supports, participants will leave with practical tools they can implement right away to build a more positive and supportive school climate.

Presenter(s): Clay Anton, E-Learning Specialist, Children's Wisconsin

69. Get in the Xello Zone
(Middle; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Portia**

Is your ACP time feeling a bit too much like "quiet study hall" (or not quiet, depending on the class) while students click through Xello lessons? It's time to move from passive completion to an active classroom. This session is designed for school counselors who want to bridge the gap between Xello's digital platform and more meaningful, face-to-face engagement.

Presenter(s): Lucas Mader, School Counselor, Hudson Middle School; Kjurstin Langer, School Counselor, Hudson Middle School

70. Wiggle Wisdom: Tips and Tricks for Delivering Elementary Counseling Lessons
(Elementary; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Tamarind**

Let's emphasize the HOW of elementary classroom guidance, by focusing on teaching strategies and guiding principles that inspire lesson engagement regardless of the curriculum content. Time will include practicing some playful warm-ups, hands-on activities, and space for participants to share out their own tips and tricks. Return to your school with a pocket full of sunshine!

Presenter(s): Jonathan Marks, School Counselor, MacDowell Montessori (Milwaukee Public Schools District)

71. Metaphors That Move Teens: ACT Strategies for Brief Therapy in Schools
(High; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Wisteria**

This presentation introduces school counselors to the use of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy metaphors to support youth in brief therapy settings. By integrating accessible visuals like the "Passengers on the Bus," counselors can help students externalize difficult thoughts and build psychological flexibility. Attendees will learn how to deliver these metaphors to foster resilience, emotional regulation, and effective coping within the limited time available in school-based counseling.

Presenter(s): Michael Axelrod, Nationally Certified School Psychologist; Licensed Psychologist, Director, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

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Friday, November 6, 2026

WR. WSCA Board Roundtable
(7:30 – 8:15 am; Open to All)

Location: Africa 20

Join the WSCA Board as we share national trends in school counseling and hear directly from you about what's happening in your schools, the challenges you're facing, and what you need most. Whether you're looking to connect with peers or learn more about what's ahead, your voice matters - let's talk!

Presenter(s): WSCA Board

SECTIONAL 6 – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
SECTIONAL 6 INTENSIVE – 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

72. 2026 Financial Aid Update
(High; General; Access/Opportunities)

Location: **Africa 10**

Let's talk about financial aid! In this session you'll have a brief refresher on the process of applying for financial aid, what to look for in a financial aid offer, any updates from previous years and you'll have a chance to ask any questions you may have.

Presenter(s): Katie Sprunger, College Goal Wisconsin

73i. A Creative Spin on SEL Night
(Elementary; Professional; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 20**

Ever wanted to implement a SEL Night at School? Learn creative and engaging ways to make it impactful and a powerful advocacy tool for your program!

Presenter(s): Stacey Miller, EdS, School Counselor, Buford Elementary

74i. Show What You Know Using Arts Integrated Curriculum Design
(K-12; Professional; Access/Opportunities; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 30**

You've attended multiple WSCA sessions at this point in the conference. Some tips and tools have resonated or highlighted areas for growth. Your brain is swimming with wonders. Time to synthesize. We'll take your AH HA's and apply an Arts Integrated Curriculum Design process. We'll explore collage techniques and create works of art that demonstrate your new understanding. This hands-on experience will deepen your school counseling understanding and give witness to the power of the arts integration. No previous artistic skill necessary.

Presenter(s): Heather vonOesen Dean, M.Ed. and National Board Professional Teaching Certification (NBPT), Creative Across the Curriculum, LLC

75. Did They Learn What We Wanted, and How Will We Know?
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 40**

Did they learn what we expected them to learn?" It's a question many ask after a classroom lesson or the final session of a small group. To answer with confidence, we must be deliberate in designing lessons and interventions, crafting clear learning objectives with pre/post assessments that accurately measure attainment, all aligned with student standards. Come practice with us!

Presenter(s): Steve Schneider, ACSC, Retired School Counselor, N/A; Sarah Flier, Elementary School Counselor, Hudson School District

76. Hope Heroes in Action: Counselors Share Their WSCPAR Journey
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 50**

Discover how to showcase the impact of your school counseling program through a Wisconsin School Counseling Program Accountability Report. A panel will share their real experiences creating WSCPARs and how the process helped them highlight student outcomes, advocate for their programs, and strengthen practice. Learn how counselors at any career stage can organize data, demonstrate results, and communicate the value of school counseling programs to administrators, families, and colleagues.

Presenter(s): Jennifer Reuchlen, WSCA Data Director, Director of Counseling, Marquette University High School

77i. Play, Create, Connect: Engaging Students Through Play and Art-Based Learning in Classrooms and Small
(Elementary; Introductory; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 60**

When learning feels like play, students are more engaged, motivated, and emotionally connected. This sectional explores play-based learning and art-based expression as tools for building regulation, creativity, confidence, and connection. Through hands-on activities, movement, and games, participants gain practical strategies for classrooms, counseling groups, and intervention settings - walking away with tools that promote student growth and meaningful engagement.

Presenter(s): Jeni Donath, School Counselor, Clayton School District; Jami Van Heuklom, JK-6 School Counselor, Clear Lake School District

78i. Students in the Algorithmic Age: Social Media, Identity Development, Cyberbullying, & Self-Harm.
(Middle, High; General; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Africa 70**

Adolescent identity development now occurs within algorithm-driven social media environments that intensify social comparison, peer surveillance, and reputational pressure. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat reward visibility and often amplifying peer conflict and harmful coping content. We will examine how algorithms shape identity, peer dynamics, and conflict, and provides strategies to assess social media stressors, intervene in digital peer conflict, and support healthier online identities.

Presenter(s): Kotatee Tamba, PsyD, LP, LICSW, Clinical Psychologist, CALM - Clinic for Attention,Learning, and Memory; Kelsey Maleski, Clinical Psychologist, CALM; Gary Johnson, Clinical Director, CALM

79. Empowering Graduation: High School Competency-Based Diploma Programs
(High; Professional; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 80**

This session introduces Park High School's competency-based diploma program, designed for seniors who are credit deficient in core areas and have scored 137+ on the GED Readiness tests. Housed in the high school, students attend for three hours daily with an attendance requirement. Participants will learn how students are identified, assessed, and supported to complete a competency-based portfolio, typically in one semester, and can walk with their graduating class and earn a diploma.

Presenter(s): Jennifer Binneboese, Lead School Counselor, Washington Park High School

80. From ACT Data to Action: Turning Student Performance Into Targeted Improvement
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 90**

ACT testing provides schools with valuable information about student readiness—but the real opportunity is what happens next. In this session, Method Learning will explore how schools can use assessment and practice data to identify student skill gaps, target instruction and intervention, and monitor progress leading up to the ACT. Attendees will see practical examples of how Wisconsin schools can move beyond simply reviewing scores and use data to create a more focused approach to ACT readiness and student improvement.

Presenter(s): Kyle Henriksen, Director of Enrollment and Partnerships, Method Learning

82. From Suspension to Support - Equitable Approaches to Adolescent Nicotine Use
(High; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Portia**

This sectional will explore the evolving landscape of youth nicotine use, describe how nicotine affects adolescents, and the equity challenges tied to punitive vaping disciple practices. To work towards an equitable, non-punitive approach, two evidence-based alternatives to suspension programs will be highlighted to promote healthier outcomes within school culture.

Presenter(s): Jessica Brost, Health Promotions Manager, American Lung Association

83i. The Long Game: Vertical Alignment Strategies for K-12 Academic and Career Planning
(K-12; Introductory; Academic/Career; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Tamarind**

ACP is often treated as a high school graduation requirement, but true student agency requires a

foundation built years earlier. ACP is not a destination - it's a developmental muscle built over time. This interactive sectional breaks down silos between elementary, middle, and high school to reveal a seamless 4th - 12th grade continuum. Career exploration shouldn't peak in high school; it should begin in elementary. Explore a framework for scaling self-discovery into professional readiness.

Presenter(s): Rachel Steward, Academic and Career Planning Teacher, DeForest Area School District; Emily Hendricks, Academic and Career Planning Coordinator, DeForest Area School District; Christine Davis, Academic and Career Planning Teacher, DeForest Area School District

84i. This parent is ANGRY!
(K-12; Professional; Social/Emotional; INTENSIVE)

Location: **Wisteria**

Have you ever dreaded a phone call or conference because you just weren't sure how it would turn out? Today, we'll build the skills and framework to handle the toughest of situations without breaking a sweat and building better relationships at the same time.

Presenter(s): Chris Peterson, Speaker, The Parenting Professor

SECTIONAL 7 – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

85. Beyond the Office Door: Synchronizing Leadership for Student Success
(High; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 10**

The relationship between a School Counselor and their Principal is the heartbeat of a school's emotional and operational health. When this partnership is fractured, silos form; when it is strong, student outcomes flourish. This session explores the intentional cultivation of Professional Trust through the lens of a practicing Principal-Counselor team.

Presenter(s): Rachel Seevers, School Counselor, Nekoosa High School; Keith Johnson, Principal, Nekoosa High School

86. Get Your Group On: Using Small Groups to Reach More Students
(Elementary, Middle; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 20**

School counselors are uniquely positioned to expand access to direct services through small group counseling. Small groups create real-time peer interaction, giving students authentic practice with interpersonal skills that individual counseling alone cannot replicate. Participants will leave with practical structures and engaging strategies to increase equitable student access and strengthen interpersonal skill development.

Presenter(s): Cara Wood, Ed. D., Assistant Professor, Viterbo University; Carol Klose Smith, Associate Professor, Viterbo University; Will Reiche, School Counselor, Black River Falls Middle School

87. Big Feelings to Calm Minds: Play Strategies for Elementary Counselors
(Elementary; Introductory; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 30**

Elementary students often experience big emotions but lack the words to express them. This sectional introduces practical play-based counseling strategies that help children externalize feelings, build

emotional awareness, and practice regulation skills. Participants will learn simple techniques, such as sand tray, puppets, drawing prompts, and regulation games, that can be used in brief school counseling sessions to support students' social-emotional growth.

Presenter(s): Kelly Dunn, LMHC (IN), ACS, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Julia Carlone, Makayla Kaphing, Erika Martin

81. Clock It. Claim It. Change It.: Elevate Your Impact with the 5-Day Use of Time Calculator
(K-12; Introductory; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 40**

You became a school counselor to build relationships, provide support, and advocate for student success. Yet many counselors find themselves pulled into activities that impede or conflict with their role, leaving less time for the direct services students need most. The ASCA 5-Day Use of Time Calculator tool helps you gather concrete data to help you advocate, reflect, and intentionally shift your time back to doing what you love most - working with students.

Presenter(s): Sarah Flier, ACSC, ASCA Certified Trainer, School Counselor, Hudson School District

89. Yes, You Can Lead Too! Inside WSCA Leadership
(K-12; Professional; Leadership/Advocacy)

Location: **Africa 50**

Join WSCA leaders as they share their personal leadership journeys and the experiences that helped them grow. These are everyday school counselors, just like you, who stepped into leadership and discovered new ways to impact their schools, students, and the profession. Learn the ins and outs of WSCA through the volunteer leader experience and explore the many ways you can strengthen your leadership, connect with colleagues, and grow your impact through WSCA opportunities.

Presenter(s): Randi Kisner, WSCA Leadership Academy Director, School Counselor, Bradford High School, Kenosha Unified School District

90. From Avoidance to Action: Practical Tools for Supporting Student Anxiety
(K-12; General; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 60**

This interactive sectional examines how the anxiety-avoidance cycle develops in students and why short-term relief often leads to long-term distress. Participants will gain practical, school-based strategies to reduce avoidance, build distress tolerance, and support caregivers in responding effectively to anxiety. Through case examples, discussion, and reflection, attendees will leave with tools they can immediately implement to help students face fears and strengthen resilience.

Presenter(s): Maiah Domask, Therapist, Compass Health Center; Kristina Joswiak, MSW, APSW, Associate Primary Therapist, Compass Health Center

91. Beyond Plows and Cows: Unlocking Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Careers for Every Student
(Middle; General; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 70**

1 in 10 Wisconsin jobs are in agriculture, food, and natural resources (AFNR) - are your students exploring these opportunities? From urban ag and food science to robotics and environmental conservation, these careers are diverse - and the sector needs a diverse workforce. Grounded in the "An Ag Career for You" curriculum pilot, this session equips counselors with free, standards-aligned lessons and practical strategies to engage students and expand awareness of high-demand, rewarding

AFNR careers.

Presenter(s): Beth Schaefer, Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom - Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation; Cindi Syverson, AVID Site Coordinator and Elective Teacher, South Middle School, Eau Claire Area School District

92. Understanding Queer Students
(High; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Africa 80**

In this sectional we will dig into what is impacting the LGBTQ+ student. We will talk about Wisconsin based organizations who support queer students/educators. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions about the lived experience of queer individuals.

Presenter(s): Rae Tompson, Case Manager, Catalyst for Change Inc.

93. Blueprint for Success: Navigating Apprenticeships and Trades Careers With Your Students
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Africa 90**

Interested in advising students on apprenticeships and trades careers? Join Wisconsin's nationally-recognized workforce intermediary WRTP | BIG STEP to learn about the family-sustaining wages, benefits, and opportunities in union construction careers. As WRTP | BIG STEP continues to expand statewide, the organization is available to help counselors connect students with training, testing, and comprehensive services to reduce barriers for those entering the trades.

Presenter(s): Mindy Collado, Program Manager, WRTP | BIG STEP

94. Brain-Based by Design: Integrating NME, CPS, Trauma-Sensitive Practices, and SEL in Elementary Counseling
(Elementary; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Guava**

"I cannot fit anything else on my plate!" Have you heard or said that before? This session will help you understand how The Neurosequential Model in Education, Collaborative and Proactive Solutions, Trauma Sensitive Schools, and Social Emotional Learning weave together under the umbrella of "Brain-Based Learning". They are not more items on the plate, they ARE the plate! Understanding these connections helps to shift perspective and create a new lens through which to view students.

Presenter(s): Richelle Rottmann, School Counselor, School District of Fort Atkinson; Julie Kusel, Behavior Interventionist, School District of Fort Atkinson

95. From Surface Behavior to Root Cause: Practical FBA Strategies for Elementary School Counselors
(Elementary; Professional; Social/Emotional)

Location: **Portia**

FBAs are common in elementary schools, but can feel daunting without a shared understanding and consistent process. This sectional strengthens core FBA principles, introduces root cause analysis as a structured problem-solving approach, and examines how equity considerations shape behavior decision-making. Using elementary-focused case studies, participants will leave with practical strategies to support MLSS and IEP team discussions.

Presenter(s): Becky Steensen, School Psychologist, CESA 7; Katie Tennessen, Behavior Specialist, CESA 7

96. Engage, Support, and Celebrate Your Students
(High; General; Academic/Career)

Location: **Tamarind**

Discover a comprehensive district-wide model for integrating families into the CTE journey from enrollment to employment. This session breaks down a strategic engagement calendar - starting with August Freshmen family dinners and Junior workshops, through October Sophomore conferences and Senior Pathway Nights. We will demonstrate how our district fosters accountability through Academic and Career Planning (ACP) activities that ensure every student is supported toward their unique "next step."

Presenter(s): Susan Verhagen, School Counselor, Oconomowoc High School; Kyla Stefan, Coordinator of Career Programming, Oconomowoc Area School District

97. Care Starts Here: A Free, Career-Ready Pathway into Healthcare for High School Students
(High; Introductory; Academic/Career)

Location: **Wisteria**

Learn how to introduce students to healthcare careers using a free, low-stakes training model. This introductory session equips counselors with ready-to-use tools, lesson integration ideas, and referral strategies to connect students to the Certified Direct Care Professional (CDCP) program. Through examples and discussion, participants will gain practical ways to expand career pathways, support workforce readiness, and offer students a no-cost entry point into caregiving and health careers.

Presenter(s): Casey Kapalczysnki, Program Manager, UW-Green Bay; Alyse Gesch, Program Coordinator, UW-Green Bay

THE WELLNESS COMPASS INITIATIVE BRUNCH & CLOSING SESSION
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Africa East
Keynote Speaker – Chris Scheufele