

OHIO SCHOOL COUNSELOR CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 15-17, 2025

NAVIGATING CHANGE



NEW DIRECTIONS IN
SCHOOL COUNSELING

HYATT REGENCY COLUMBUS

350 N HIGH STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215



AN ASCA@HOME EVENT

AI IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

AI in School Counseling: Smart Tools, Human Touch

As artificial intelligence reshapes education, school counselors find themselves at a pivotal moment. Sure, AI offers streamlined tasks, smarter planning, stronger student support – but how do you embrace innovation without losing the human connection at the core of your work?

School counselors are exploring how AI can enhance, not replace, their role. From simplifying repetitive tasks to improving program planning and evaluation, AI offers tools that can help you do more of what matters most.

Discover how to take advantage of AI without losing the human touch with **AI in School Counseling**, a two-day online experience from ASCA@Home.

Join expert-led sessions, interactive demos and collaborative discussions designed to help you:

- Use **practical AI tools** that support your daily work
- **Navigate ethical considerations** with confidence
- Elevate student support through **innovative strategies**

Whether you're just beginning to explore AI or already integrating it into your practice, this event will give you the insights and tools to lead in a tech-driven world, while preserving the human connection that matters the most.

Live Sessions: Jan. 8–9, 2026

On-Demand Access: Through Dec. 31, 2026

Members: \$99 | **Nonmembers:** \$249



Learn more and register at schoolcounselor.org/asca-at-home



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------|--|
| 4 | <i>Welcome Letter from your President</i> | 12 | <i>Wednesday, Oct. 15 Pre-Con Workshops</i> |
| 5 | <i>Mobile App – Features & Instructions</i> | 14 | <i>Thursday, Oct. 16 Breakout Sessions</i> |
| 8, 9 | <i>Schedule Matrix & Session Locations</i> | 31 | <i>Friday, Oct 17 Breakout Sessions</i> |
| 10 | <i>Meet the Board – Wednesday Night</i> | 43 | <i>Venue Floor Plan & Map</i> |
| 11 | <i>Keynote Speaker Dr. Carolyn Stone</i> | | |



Laura Hogue
PRESIDENT
Ohio School Counselor
Association

WELCOME LETTER FROM YOUR OSCA PRESIDENT

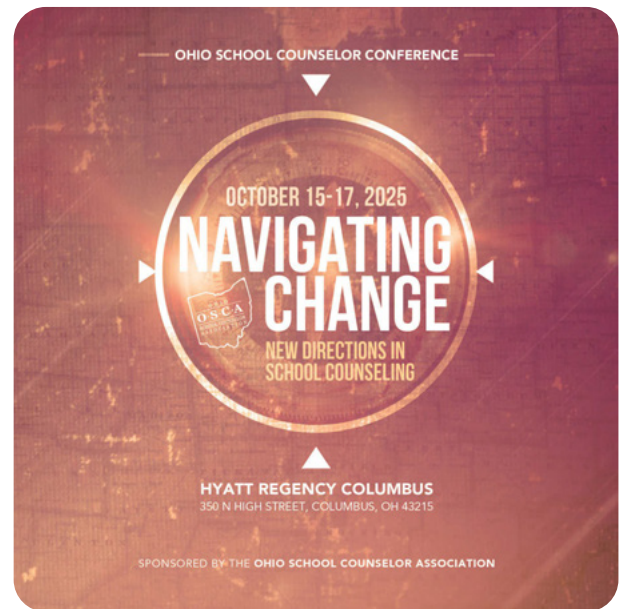
On behalf of the Ohio School Counselor Association (OSCA), we welcome you to the first annual **Ohio School Counselor Conference** (OSCC)!

The decision to move away from the AOCC and venture into hosting our own, school counselor centric conference was not an easy one, but we have greatly appreciated the support we have received from the profession. The OSCC has been specifically planned with you, the school counselor, in mind. We hope you find the targeted and expanded professional learning sessions, networking opportunities, exhibitor engagements, and overall experience to be rewarding and reinvigorating.

The theme this year is **Navigating Change: New Directions in School Counseling**. I think it is safe to say that education and the students we serve have changed over time, not to mention your conference experience. As such, we as school counselors are having to adjust and learn new skills to continue to provide effective and supportive school counseling programs and services.

We are beyond excited to kick off this year's conference with our keynote session - **"School Counselors as Defendants in Court Cases"** - presented by Dr. Carolyn Stone. Dr. Stone's expertise in school counselor legal and ethical understanding looks to remind us all of the intentionality we must have as we navigate new waters. We hope that her presence and wisdom bring a sense of calm, clarity, and confidence to our attendees.

Be sure to join us early Thursday morning for a complimentary breakfast and OSCA's general session and awards ceremony. These events are encouraged of all attendees and will provide time for meaningful networking, engagement with your association, and



celebration of excellence in the profession.

In addition to earning contact hours to submit to your LPDC, for our attendees who also hold an LPC, LSW or MFT license, we have obtained approval to provide limited OCSWMFT CE hours. Be sure to target those designated sessions to take advantage of this offering. For those in need of graduate credit hours, be sure to explore our partnership with Lindenwood University to earn between 1-3 graduate credits for your time at the OSCC.

The mobile conference app will be your one-stop location for all things OSCC. Use the app to learn how to obtain CEs, find where and when sessions are being held, access presentation handouts, get updates, and more.

What is most exciting about this year's OSCC will be the time you are able to spend networking with like-minded peers. We will have 700+ school counselors and related professionals in one location. Be sure to strike up a conversation with the person sitting next to you in a session, talk to one of our many sponsors, or visit the OSCA booth to ask a question. How you choose to navigate the conference will be up to you. Make it count!

We are honored to have you join us and we look forward to amazing inaugural OSCC!

OSCC '25 Mobile App

OSCC 2025 at your fingertips...

Download the app at osca.events/app

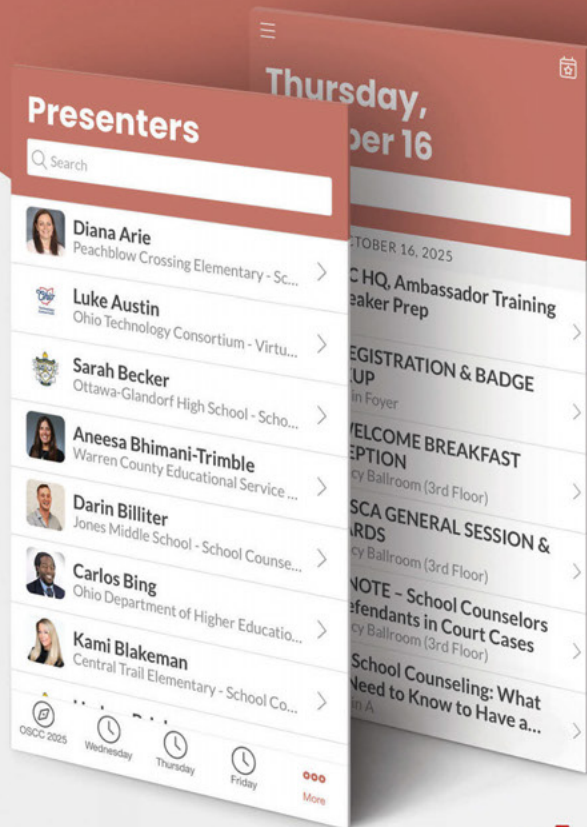
Download the mobile app to browse each day's schedule, create & manage your own agenda, connect with sponsors/attendees & more!



Download on the
App Store



Get it on
Google play



Yapp App Features

> Browse each day's schedule

Pick up your name badge, learn about the OSCC presenters, and attend accredited breakouts.

> Create your personalized agenda

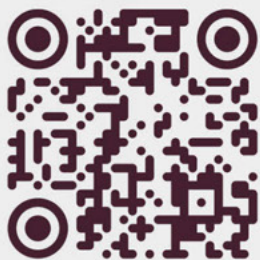
Make the OSCC your own. Choose sessions that are suited to you and your specific needs.

> Connect & get social during OSCC

The OSCC thrives on networking, so get involved and interact with attendees and sponsors.

> Navigate the venue in style

Find your way around the Hyatt Regency Cbus. Locate the Franklin, County & Regency areas.



Yapp

Yapp ID:
OSCC25

www.osca.events/app

info@osca.events

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

A Career in Sheet Metal Offers:

- Competitive Pay and Benefits
- Excellent Career Opportunities
- Job Security
- And More!



Competitive Starting Wage

Tuition: FREE

Includes Pension and Healthcare

Learn more here:
csmwa.org



Contact us!

📞 614.471.3107

✉ office@csmwa.org

🌐 csmwa.org

📍 3031 Lamb Avenue
Columbus, OH 43219



In the Sheet Metal Industry,
there is something for
everyone.

You can explore careers in:

- Architecture
- Detailing
- Service & Refrigeration
- Industrial Welding
- Roofing
- Commercial HVAC
- Testing, Adjusting & Balancing
- Laser Operation



Only at *Bowling Green*



We know how you go to college matters. *We're large enough to offer all the opportunities of a big school, but small enough that you can truly take advantage of them.* And it's not just about opportunities, it's about doing college well. At Bowling Green, we believe it's on both of us — you and our team — to make sure you get the most from your experience.

Top 5 in the nation – *#1 in Ohio* – Student-Recommended University

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, AMONG ALL PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Life Design

We equip you to navigate college and your career with intention, maximizing your investment in education. *We're a national leader in Life Design*, and it's a big reason we're ranked as a top 5 school in the nation students would choose again.



BGSU BOWLING GREEN
STATE UNIVERSITY

bgsu.edu



CENTRAL MIDWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS



The Central Midwest Carpenters' Apprenticeship Training, takes an "earn-as-you-learn" approach to ensuring anyone can earn a good, living wage with benefits for their family—right from the start. Apprentices earn an associates degree upon completion of the program. Whether carpenter, millwright, or floor coverer, we have state-of-the-art training available across Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.



LEARN MORE HERE
WWW.CARPENTERS.COM



School Safety Center

The mission of the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) is to support all Ohio schools and first responders in preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm, through a holistic, solutions-based approach to improving school safety. Using a cross-disciplinary approach, the OSSC will provide resources to schools to enhance their strategies for safety, security, and emergency plan development.

Contact us at Ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov

Follow us on social media:





THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 SESSIONS

| | 9:30–10:30 AM | 10:45–11:45 AM | 1:15–2:15 PM | 2:30–3:30 PM | 3:45–4:45 PM | 5:00–6:00 PM |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHAMPAIGN | KEYNOTE SCHOOL COUNSELORS AS DEFENDANTS IN COURT CASES Dr. Carolyn Stone <i>Regency Ballroom (3rd Floor)</i> | A6 – But, That's My Job: Navigating the Outsourcing | B8 – Supporting Military-Connected Students | C1 – Counseling Gen Z from a Gen Z School Counselor | D2 – Virtual Horizons: Empowering Students | E6 – Exploring Typologies of Student-Teacher Relationships |
| FAIRFIELD | | A3 – Re-Entry and Re-Integration After Crises | B6 – The New Baseline: Tier 1 Supports | C9 – Chaos to Clarity: Tools to Save Time & Sanity | D6 – Bills, Bills, Bills: Not Yours, But Those of the Statehouse | E2 – How Kindness Can Change Your School |
| KNOX | | A8 – School Counselors, Comprehensive School Safety | B3 – Yellow Flags and What to Do With Them | C8 – Teaching Kindness: School Kindness eWall | D8 – Beyond the Office: Creative Counseling | E7 – Unleashing Success: The Power of Therapy Dogs |
| MARION | | A7 – Using Props to Engage the Lesson | B2 – Career Tech Counselors Connect | C2 – Full STEAM Ahead: Hands-On Lessons | D9 – Youth Gambling | E9 – A Unique Position: Prescribed Roles vs. Reality |
| MORROW | | A2 – Future-Ready Juniors | B7 – Captivating Classroom Lessons | C6 – Beyond the Backpack: Meaningful Family Engagement | D7 – Effective SEL Lessons for MS/HS Students | E1 – Empowering School Counselors: Suicide Prevention |
| REGENCY FOYER (3rd Floor) | | | OSCA Member Listening Session | OSCA Member Listening Session | OSCA Member Listening Session | OSCA Member Listening Session |
| FRANKLIN A | | A1 – School Counseling: What You Need to Know | B1 – Creating Opportunities for Student Leadership | C3 – School Counseling Advocacy 101 | D1 – The Club No One Asked to Join | E3 – Forging Partnerships: Helping Homeless Students |
| FRANKLIN B | | A4 – Effective Attendance Improvement Interventions | B4 – Creating Grief Informed Schools | C4 – Strengthening Crisis Response | D3 – Tending Students' Mind, Body & Soul | E4 – How to Coach Gen Z to Be "Hirable" |
| FRANKLIN C | | A5 – Partners in Collaboration: School Counselors & SROs | B5 – Postsecondary Planning with Students | C5 – Meeting ODE's Career Mandates | D5 – Exploring the Path: Pursuing a PhD | E5 – Educator to Advocate: Using Shared Skills |
| FRANKLIN D | | A9 – School Counseling Supervision | B9 – Pathways Through Graduation | C7 – College Credit Plus in Action: Vital Role | D4 – Creating a Hands-on Career Sim | E8 – Leveraging Community Connections |



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 SESSIONS

| | 8:15–9:15 AM | 9:30–10:30 AM | 10:45–11:45 AM | Noon–1:00 PM |
|------------|--|--|--|--|
| CHAMPAIGN | F8 – Bridging High School and College: Modern States | G7 – 1040 Unity: Helping Refugees Feel Welcome | H9 – Creating S.P.A.C.E.: Group Counseling Lessons | I4 – Ignite Early Ambitions |
| FAIRFIELD | F3 – Self-Regulation: What it Takes to Be Successful | G5 – Level Up Your AI Craft: Smart Prompting & App Smashing | H6 – Ethics in Action: Preventing Negligence in School Counseling | I5 – Counseling with Compassion: Practical Approaches |
| KNOX | F9 – Erika’s Lighthouse: A HB 123/SAVE Students Act Approved | G8 – Building a Unified Approach: Integrating SEL | H7 – DEW Career Exploration & Planning: Setting the Stage | I7 – Good Grieving: A Guide to Small Group Grief Counseling |
| MARION | F7 – Purposeful Data: Demonstrating Your Impact | G9 – Brain Games to Career Gains: Exploring YouScience | H8 – Cultivating Success: Strategies to Support Counselors | |
| MORROW | F4 – Industry-Recognized Credentials 101 | G6 – Bridges to Belonging: Connecting Families... | H5 – Create Hope and Build Resilience Through Career Intervention | I6 – Rethinking ADHD: Understanding the Brain Behind the Behavior |
| FRANKLIN A | F1 – Elementary School Career Awareness and Exploration | G1 – Making Community Connections: Finding Your Local Resource | H1 – Incorporating a Therapy Animal into Your School Counseling | I2 – Change CAN Be Good: Creative & Inexpensive Large Group Guidance |
| FRANKLIN B | F2 – Survive and Thrive: Insights for New School Counselors | G2 – Comprehensive School-Based Suicide Prevention Program | H2 – Social Justice Counseling in Action: Turning Advocacy into Practice | I3 – Application Bootcamp: Empowering High School Seniors |
| FRANKLIN C | F5 – Beyond The Game: Research-Based Strategies | G3 – Helping School Counselors Help Students with the FAFSA | H3 – Empowering Student Voices: A Peer Leader Panel | I8 – College Credit Plus Listening Session: Ohio’s Dual Enrollment |
| FRANKLIN D | F6 – Increasing Sense of Belonging | G4 – Utilizing Business Advisory Councils to Help Students | H4 – Enhancing and Updating Your District’s Crisis Response Plan | I1 – Implementing an Evidence-Based Crisis Response |

PLEASE VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS IN THE HYATT REGENCY PRE-FUNCTION SPACE THROUGHOUT THE OHIO SCHOOL COUNSELOR CONFERENCE. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELP MAKE THIS EVENT HAPPEN!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OHIO SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

APPETIZERS
REFRESHMENTS
COME SAY HI...

MEET THE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, OCT 15
5:00 - 6:00P

THE MEETUP BEGINS @ 5:00P | FREE ADMISSION

KICK OFF
OSCC 2025
MEET THE
OSCA BOARD



Kindland

JUST BE  KIND[®]

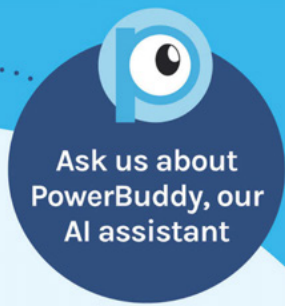
Kindness is proven to decrease anxiety and depression, improve performance both in schools and the workplace, and impart a valuable life skill to students.

Values-in-Action's Kindland programming in the most violent high school in Cleveland reduced suspensions by 78%, increased the graduation rate 43%, and eliminated in-school fights.

See how Kindland's free kindness programming can become a staple behind PBIS, SEL, and MTSS in your school.

Learn more at BeKindland.org





MAKE AN IMPACT
**College Planning,
Career Exploration
& Workforce
Readiness**

Serving **40M** students for 20+ years

Visit www.PowerSchool.com to learn more.



**Open the Door to
A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



Milton Hershey School is one of the world's best private schools, where qualifying students in pre-K through 12th grade live on campus in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and receive an exceptional educational experience—with all costs covered.

MHS can be a valuable partner in your work with low-income and working-class families. You know the students who could benefit from a program like ours—those who can succeed when given the resources to thrive. **Together, we can open the door to a brighter future. Refer a student today.**



To learn how you can connect a child with MHS, scan the QR code or visit



mhskids.org/Professionals



KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE OSCC

Dr. Carolyn Stone

Professor Emeritus, Counselor Education
University of North Florida

Carolyn Stone, PhD is a retired professor of counselor education at the University of North Florida, where she received their highest honor, the Distinguished Professorship, in 2016. Dr. Stone was the 2006 President of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and led ASCA's Ethics Committee for twenty years. Before leaving the role in 2022, Dr. Stone led the last four updates of the ASCA Ethical Standards and wrote 100 columns on legal and ethical topics for ASCA. Dr. Stone received ASCA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010 and the Florida School Counselor Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. [Read more at osca.events](https://osca.events)

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

KNOX

P1 – 504 (but probably less) Ways to Enact and Navigate Section 504 in Your District

Erich R. Merkle, PhD, EdS, NCSP - Akron Public Schools

Section 504 is often misconstrued and misunderstood by many within the educational arena. While some consider Section 504 to be a lighter variant of special education or even a lesser potent statute, the reality of Section 504 is far more significant in its impact to your students. This presentation will provide attendees with a broad overview of Section 504, compare it to special education and other pathways of comprehensive student supports, review 2025 hot topics, and offer stepwise guidance for school-based teams to navigate the complex but critical landscape of Section 504 to ensure non-discriminatory access to your scholars with disabilities.

3 CONTACT HOURS (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

FAIRFIELD

P2 – Practical Strategies for Managing Dysregulation in Students

Ashley Osinski - Ashley O Parent Coach, LLC

In recent years, behavioral challenges and dysregulation have become increasingly common in both classrooms and counseling offices, leaving many school staff unsure of how to respond effectively. This session provides practical strategies for identifying and managing dysregulation in students, equipping educators and counselors with tools to foster a more regulated learning environment.

3 CONTACT HOURS

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

FAIRFIELD

P3 – School Counselor Legal Literacy and Ethical Practice

Carolyn Stone, PhD - University of North Florida

School counselors must negotiate the competing interests of the overregulated school environment, student's need for confidentiality and the legal rights of parents to be the guiding voice in their children's lives. Updates on these competing interests will be discussed through court rulings and the new 2022 ASCA Ethical Standards. Legal rulings and ethical practice will be highlighted in areas such as sexually active students, bullying, academic advising, child abuse, educational records, sexual harassment, first amendment rights, and transgender youth. Particular attention will be given to recent changes in federal, case, and state laws to facilitate participants' legal literacy and provide guiding principles to support best ethical practice.

3-E CONTACT HOURS (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

CHAMPAIGN

P4 – Navigating the Road to LGBTQ+ Student Support

Richelle Frabotta, MEd, CSE, CSES - Public Health Dayton & Montgomery County

LGBTQ+ youth face disproportionate rates of marginalization, health inequities, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) compared to their cisgender, heterosexual peers. Studies show that Q+ youth are four times more likely to experience ACEs, and their suicide attempt rate is more than twice that of the general teen population. Schools play a critical role in providing affirming environments that can serve as protective factors against these risks. School counselors, in particular, are uniquely positioned to advocate for and support LGBTQ+ students. This training session uses a road trip metaphor to explore the journey of working with Q+ youth, the challenges (roadblocks) they face, and the tools (a counselor's "roadside assistance kit") necessary to create inclusive, supportive school environments. Participants will engage with research-backed strategies on LGBTQ+ identity development, mental health risk factors, and best practices for intervention. They will also gain an understanding of current legislative landscapes, including restrictive policies that impact LGBTQ+ students, and how to navigate these challenges while maintaining ethical and affirming counseling practices. Through interactive discussions and activity-based learning, counselors will build a toolbox of strategies to: affirm and support LGBTQ+ students in schools, foster inclusive spaces like GSAs and mental health drop-ins, address intersectional challenges (race, disability, socio-economic barriers), navigate policy and legal considerations affecting LGBTQ+ student rights, and collaborate with families, educators, and community organizations to ensure holistic support. By the end of this session, counselors will leave with concrete tools and action plans to enhance their advocacy, create affirming school environments, and ultimately reduce the daily resilience burden placed on Q+ youth—helping them not just survive, but thrive.

3 CONTACT HOURS

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

KNOX

P5 – Smaller Districts CAN Create Mental Wellness Schools without Big District Resources

Amanda Deeter, LPCC - Montgomery County ESC

Colleen Green - Montgomery County ESC

Teresa Patterson - Montgomery County ESC

Many large districts have separate SEL, Trauma Informed, and Equity departments. Many smaller districts don't even have that many administrators! Using SEL principles grounded in neuroscience, this session will highlight the essence of integrating these frameworks through Tier 1 practices. Learn how we have supported districts in creating learning environments where ALL students and staff feel safe and supported and where mental wellness, equitable social emotional learning, and supporting the whole child can be a primary focus. Years of research has shown that effective implementation begins with the adults in the space. Therefore, participants will walk away equipped with an overall toolkit that includes: an implementation guide and corresponding team self-assessment which integrates frameworks from CASEL and The National Council for Mental Wellbeing, a professional development playbook, practical coaching tools, and many examples from our partner schools.

3 CONTACT HOURS (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

REGENCY BALLROOM (3RD FLOOR)

Welcome Breakfast Reception

The Ohio School Counselor Association invites you to the 2025 OSCA Welcome Breakfast Reception. Join us for a delicious breakfast, provided by OSCA, and seize the opportunity to connect with fellow attendees from all over Ohio.

8:45 AM - 9:30 AM

REGENCY BALLROOM (3RD FLOOR)

OSCA General Session & Awards

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

REGENCY BALLROOM (3RD FLOOR)

KEYNOTE – School Counselors as Defendants in Court Cases

Carolyn Stone, PhD - University of North Florida

Legal implications for school counselors will be discussed in 10 primary court rulings that guide the legal work of counselors in schools. Highlighted areas include but not limited to sexually active students, bullying, academic advising, child abuse, educational records, sexual harassment, first amendment rights, and transgender youth. The goal is to facilitate participants' legal literacy and provide guiding principles to support best ethical practice. Topics to be discussed through the lens of school counselors as defendants in negligence cases are child abuse reporting, student suicide ideation, academic advising, FERPA, PPRA, verbal and written communication, and others.

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN A

A1 – School Counseling: What You Need to Know to Have a Successful Program

Grant Toepfer-Gaver - Holland Intermediate

For many the path to a successful program is trial and error. This session aims at highlighting important interventions and programs to hit the ground running and how to organize a program to showcase all the standards and hard work we do everyday. In this session we will discuss all tiered approaches to working with students, teachers, families, and stakeholders. Additionally we will discuss important programs such as PBIS, class lessons, small group, 1:1, school-wide, and crisis intervention. Participants will leave with knowledge and information to easily start a successful program.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

MORROW

A2 – Future-Ready Juniors

Catherine Conrad - Cloverleaf High School

This presentation will equip attendees with a comprehensive set of year-long guidance lessons designed for high school juniors, aimed at preparing students for life after graduation. The curriculum facilitates regular interactions between counselors and students, occurring either monthly or quarterly. Participants will receive all necessary materials, including lessons, pre-and post-assessments, and data collection tools. These lessons are tailored to support students in their post-secondary endeavors, whether they plan to pursue higher education, enter the military, or enter the workforce.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FAIRFIELD

A3 – Re-Entry and Re-Integration After Crises: Promoting Student Mental Health and Safety

Darcy Haag Granello - The Ohio State University

More than 60,000 students are hospitalized for suicidal thoughts and behaviors each year. Most return to school after a brief hospitalization to the same stressors and triggers. If their return is handled poorly, they are at increased risk for and possible contagion. This session introduces a published framework grounded in research and best practice. Participants will learn to develop a re-entry and re-integration plan with strategies to (a) protect student safety; (b) limit contagion; (c) support families; (d) assist teachers; and (e) help the student stay engaged in learning.

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN B

A4 – Effective Attendance Improvement Interventions for Chronically Absent Elementary School Students

Rebecca School - Bedford City Schools

Sharing Tiers 1, 2, and 3 Interventions that helped reduce the number of hours of instruction missed by primary students who were chronically absent in the 2023-2024 school year by over 32%.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN C

A5 – Partners In Collaboration: School Counselors & SROs Working Together to Support Student Needs

Emily Stamm - Port Clinton Middle School

Curt Cochran - Port Clinton City Schools

In this session we will discuss how the role of the School Counselor and the role of the School Resource Officer complement each other along with the importance and the impact of collaboration and communication between the two. In addition we will give real life everyday examples of how you can work together to support your students. The main areas of focus will be student attendance, mental health, understanding court involvement and school safety.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

CHAMPAIGN

A6 – But, That's My Job: Navigating the Outsourcing of LPSC's Skill Sets and Expertise

Laura Swinsburg - Summit County School Counselors Association

Licensed Professional School Counselors (LPSCs, K-12) hold a masters degree, licensing to counsel students of all ages, hundreds of hours of training, coursework, and experience. A concerning trend devalues use of school counselors when budget conscientious administration attempts to fill a school counselor's role through outside agencies (often through billable subsidies and temporary medicaid). Explore the impetus for this trend, recognize the pitfalls of hiring agencies (social workers, licensed counselors, and clinical counselors) without proper role differentiation. Discover ways to advocate for clear role boundaries and champion your professional skill sets. Positive student outcomes depend on you!

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

MARION

A7 – Using Props to Engage the Lesson

Christina Menosky - Fairfield Union Local Schools

Do you struggle to keep the student's attention before you even start? Learn strategies to engage the learner, keep the lesson going, and help with lesson content recall with the use of props.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

KNOX

A8 – School Counselors, Essential Elements in Comprehensive School Safety

Nichole Miller - Ohio School Safety Center Depart. of Public Safety

This presentation will discuss the essential role of the school counselor in creating a safe school environment. Culture and climate are as equally important as locked doors and other physical safety measures. This presentation will delve into the special skills the school counselor brings in regards to safety. Topics will include behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM), suicide and violence prevention, promoting a positive school climate and other resources available through the OSSC and your regional contacts.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN D

A9 – School Counseling Supervision: Best Practices and Ethical Considerations

Jeremy Oehrtman - Bowling Green State University

Being a school counseling supervisor for practicum or internship students can bring anxiety, yet it's vital for their professional development. Training on this can enhance one's ability to provide quality supervision. This session will explore the ASCA Ethical Standards for site supervisors discussing supervision models, culturally affirming supervision, dual relationships, virtual versus in-person supervision, effective supervisee evaluations, and collaborating with university faculty. Small group discussions will share strategies to improve supervision and support early-career counselors.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

FRANKLIN A

B1 – Creating Opportunities for Student Leadership

Morgan Eilerman - Williamsburg Schools

Amanda Ervin - Williamsburg Local Schools

In a small school where leadership opportunities mostly present themselves through athletics, Student Council or NHS - there is a need for a different type of opportunity for students. As school counselors, we have the unique ability to target working with students from all different parts of the academic spectrum. We believe that the relationships we create with kids can foster trust and encourage our kids to step out of their comfort zone to be a part of something different. We were able to create a leadership group that relies heavily on the students' individual talents and passions.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

MARION

B2 – Career Tech Counselors Connect

Melissa Nowicki - Knox County Career Center

Clarissa Bush - Clarissa Bush, Knox County Career Center

A time for Career Tech School Counselors to connect, relate, ask questions, and share updates in the career tech world.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

KNOX

B3 – Yellow Flags and What to Do with Them: A Preventative Approach to School Safety

Brittany DeWitt - Greeneview Local Schools

When it comes to school safety, we focus a lot of our attention on crisis management and response. But what about before the crisis? Is there more we can be doing in our buildings to prevent school violence? This presentation focuses on the research of James Densley and Jillian Peterson in their book *The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic*, highlighting prevention strategies that are easy to implement, regardless of grade level, setting, or prior training, to help create safer environments for students and staff.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

FRANKLIN B

B4 – Everything Dogs: Best Practice for Planning and Implementation of Dogs in Counseling

Lori Morgan - Green Local Schools

The use of therapy dogs in counseling has grown significantly and many desire to incorporate a dog, but do not know how to begin. This session will share the presenter's 29 years of experience with therapy dogs to cover "all the bases". This session will detail suggestions for setting up the approval, preparing your pet dog for this role, where to access resources to get a dog, liability/allergy concerns and benefits. It will cover types of service dogs, ideas if you currently have a dog and include live demonstrations of skills with a therapy dog working in a school counseling setting.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

FRANKLIN C

B5 – Postsecondary Planning with Students: How to Plan for Your Students' BigFuture

Kelly Simmons - Streetsboro High School

Maureen LaRaviere - College Board

This session will equip you with information and resources to help you support your students and families in the postsecondary planning process. Hear best practices from Streetsboro HS for leveraging BigFuture's College and Career Planning Tool to support students and their families as they navigate refining their postsecondary goals. Participants will leave this session with ideas on how to implement BigFuture in a classroom setting by leveraging free toolkits and lesson plans that provide counselors with turnkey resources for students and families on college and career advising.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

FAIRFIELD

B6 – The New Baseline: Tier 1 Supports in a Changing World

Emily Hough - Johnnycake Corners Elementary School (OLSD)

Jennifer Fitzer - Indian Springs Elementary School

Jaimie Perry - Walnut Creek Elementary School

Elementary school counselors are often tasked with supporting large caseloads of students while working independently, making it essential to implement efficient, schoolwide strategies to maximize our impact. This session will focus on tier 1 strategies, emphasizing a proactive approach. Participants will learn about strategies for supporting PBIS, delivering classroom curriculum and other schoolwide programs and activities to help all students build skills to support a positive school environment.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

MORROW

B7 – Captivating Classroom Lessons

Melissa Lafayette - The Ohio State University

Discover how to plan, deliver, and evaluate dynamic classroom lessons that captivate all learners. This session equips school counselors with practical strategies to boost student engagement, foster inclusive participation, manage classrooms proactively, and assess impact using data. Learn how to create interactive, student-centered experiences that make every minute count, and leave with ready-to-use ideas to enhance Tier 1 instruction.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

CHAMPAIGN

B8 – Survivor Resilience

Christina Menosky - Fairfield Union Local Schools

How do you keep moving forward when it all seems to keep coming at you? This session will discuss resilience through the lens of a survivor mentality. We will identify simple strategies to consider adding and implementing into your day. As a result, you will be able to better demonstrate these to your students and clients.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

FRANKLIN D

B9 – Pathways through Graduation

Travis Taylor - Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

Ohio's high school graduation requirements have evolved to offer students multiple pathways that align with their individual strengths and future aspirations. During our time we'll discuss how to implement pathways within your schools to support and prepare students for their careers and life after graduation.

1 CONTACT HOUR

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

REGENCY FOYER (3RD FLOOR)

OSCA Member Listening Session

OSCA Board of Directors

During this session, OSCA members will have an opportunity to engage with representatives of the OSCA Board of Directors to share insights about what is happening within the profession and how OSCA can better serve members. This session will be offered during four time blocks throughout the day. Members who participate in the listening sessions will be entered into a drawing to win a FREE ASCA 2026 Conference registration in New Orleans.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

CHAMPAIGN

C1 – Counseling Gen Z from a Gen Z School Counselor

Kati Condes - R G Drage

Stereotypically, Gen Z is said to be “too soft”, often “coddled”, or “entitled”, but is this really the case? This generation of individuals have big dreams and goals but often have difficulties reaching their full potential due to barriers that may be out of their control. On the flip side, they do face some issues that are completely within their control and it’s our job to assist them with navigating this in the most effective manner. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss these issues from the lens of the Gen Z counselor.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

MARION

C2 – Full STEAM Ahead: Hands-On Lessons for Classrooms & Counseling Groups

Marie Weller - Retired School Counselor

Paula Vertikoff - Newark City Schools

Looking for engaging, hands-on activities to enhance your counseling sessions or classroom lessons? Join us as we explore creative STEAM-powered strategies that make learning stick! Discover how to use a coffee filter to show how the brain decides whether to “say it or save it,” transform Jenga into a lesson on responsibility, and skewer a balloon to manage big emotions without an explosion. We'll share oodles of innovative lessons that bring abstract concepts to life. Don't miss this chance to fuel your counseling toolkit with fresh, practical, and adaptable activities!

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

FRANKLIN A

C3 – School Counseling Advocacy 101

Robyn Walsh - Capital University

Cristina Foster - Ohio Virtual Academy

Rebecca School - Bedford City Schools

This session will teach you how to advocate for yourself as a school counselor and your program. You will learn multiple marketing strategies to use to win key stakeholders in your district and community including students, staff, parents, board members, and community members. Participants will walk away with real-world examples they can use in their current programs.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

FRANKLIN B

C4 – Strengthening Crisis Response: Building Systems of Support

Ashley Mariano - ESC of Eastern Ohio

In the face of crisis, connection matters most. Learn how dedicated school counselors turned shared passion into a trauma-informed, cross-district response team. Hear how post-COVID challenges, real-world crisis events, and ongoing training efforts have shaped their journey. This session offers powerful reflections from those who've led and lived the work, along with practical takeaways on strengthening systems of care, communication, and counselor collaboration.

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

FRANKLIN C

C5 – Meeting ODE's Career Mandates Without the Mayhem: A Proven Model for School Counselors

Victoria Weisbrod - Bishop Fenwick High School

Lisa Marker Robbins - Flourish Coaching

For high school counselors, offering mandated individualized career exploration is daunting, especially when many lack the expertise and time. In this session, you will learn how over 4000 students have benefitted from a streamlined, innovative approach that guides students through structured assessment and career investigation toward alignment with their future path. An 8-year partnership that began with data-driven assessments has evolved into personalized career instruction modules that have reverse-engineered the post-graduation decision process for students, their parents, and counselors.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

MORROW

C6 – Beyond the Backpack: Meaningful Family Engagement in Schools

Melissa Wengerd - Cornerstone Elementary School

Kaley Egli - Wooster City Schools

Presentation explores effective strategies for engaging families in elementary schools, with a focus on bridging socioeconomic status gaps and creating inclusive school communities. We'll dive into research-based practices that foster meaningful family involvement, examine barriers that can limit engagement—especially for families from underserved backgrounds—and highlight steps educators can take to build trust, communication, and collaboration. Participants will leave with tools to strengthen school-family partnerships that positively impact student well-being.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

FRANKLIN D

C7 – College Credit Plus in Action: Examining the Vital Role of School Counselors in Expanding Early College Opportunities

Rebecca Stewart - Ohio Department of Higher Education

Tyrone Spencer - Ohio Department of Higher Education

During this session, we'll explore the College Credit Plus program and share guidance on how you can help students understand the financial aid programs the state offers.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

KNOX

C8 – Teaching Kindness: How to Launch and Implement a School Kindness eWall

Amy Weinrich - Blendon Middle School

Marcia Childs - Blendon Middle School

Doug Reavis - You Uplift - Kindness eWall

The messaging and display company YouUplift introduces its "School Kindness eWalls," a tech-inspired way to foster a new kind of social media that is always positive. With the eWall, students post positive quotes, photos, videos, and gifs through a central link. Schools then add these messages to rotating displays on monitors, share them on social media, or embed them on their websites. A faculty member reviews and approves every message before posting, ensuring the eWall stays kind and students uphold their core values.

YouUplift demonstrates how a technology company empowers students to use their mics for good and leverage tech for positive purposes.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

FAIRFIELD

C9 – Chaos to Clarity: Tools to Save Time & Sanity for Counselors

Corrina Centers - Springboro High School

Join us to discuss leveraging technology, streamlining processes, and utilizing digital tools to make your life easier. We'll showcase tools that help you manage and track students' scholarships, progress towards graduation, college & career exploration and interests, simplifying college applications, and sharing data with stakeholders efficiently. We'll dive into tools like college & career readiness platform SchoolLinks, AI-assisted platforms such as ChatGPT, administrative tools like Canva, and how to utilize your preferred technology.

1 CONTACT HOUR

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

REGENCY FOYER (3RD FLOOR)

OSCA Member Listening Session

OSCA Board of Directors

During this session, OSCA members will have an opportunity to engage with representatives of the OSCA Board of Directors to share insights about what is happening within the profession and how OSCA can better serve members. This session will be offered during four time blocks throughout the day. Members who participate in the listening sessions will be entered into a drawing to win a FREE ASCA 2026 Conference registration in New Orleans.

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

FRANKLIN A

D1 – The Club No One Asked to Join: School-Based Grief Interventions

Grace Whistle - OhioHealth

Sarah See - OhioHealth

While grief is a normal reaction to death, children and adolescents grieve differently than adults. The loss of a significant person impacts all facets of their lives, including attendance, performance, behaviors and relationships in the school setting. This session will educate and help equip school counselors to understand theoretical frameworks of grief, understand and assess grief's impact on youth and provide hands-on interventions that support youth ages 5-18 years old. Interventions include expressive art, storytelling, grief education, building coping skills and fostering community.

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

CHAMPAIGN

D2 – Virtual Horizons: Empowering Students in Ohio with VR

John Strawn - Ohio Technology Consortium

Betsy Kordes - Ohio Technology Consortium

Luke Austin - Ohio Technology Consortium

Discover how the Ohio Department of Higher Education's "Universe of Opportunity" 3D college exploration game can enhance student engagement and access to higher education information. This innovative tool, accessible via web browser or VR headset, allows students to explore Ohio's many postsecondary institutions through an interactive map of the state. By "traveling" to each location, students can experience campuses through immersive 360-degree photos. In this session, you will learn how VR can: provide an immersive and interactive look at higher education campuses, expand access to information for students who cannot visit campuses in person...

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

FRANKLIN B

D3 – Tending Students’ Mind, Body & Soul: The Interwoven Benefits of Knitting, Gardening, and Mindfulness

Julie Taylor - Oregon City Schools

Hannah Jaqua - Bowling Green State University

Marlise Lonn - Bowling Green State University

Opportunities for students to knit, garden, and engage in mindfulness activities are less conventional, yet meaningful interventions to promote student well-being. While developing these new skills and working collaboratively, students also strengthen social-emotional skills including emotional regulation, empowerment, perseverance, and stress management. In this session, participants will explore examples of programs cultivated by school counselors from multiple Ohio schools, with students of various abilities across multiple grade bands.

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

FRANKLIN D

D4 – Creating a Hands-on Career Exploration Simulation to Build Awareness for Elementary School Students

Rebecca Smith - Lakota Local Schools

Elementary school counselors will learn how to create a career exploration simulation. The simulation will feature hands-on activities that allow students to experience a specific career field. These labs will connect to a greater narrative: students are members of a community that has experienced a flood and must perform jobs (entrepreneurs, reporters, engineers, first responders, disaster response team members, or scientists) to support recovery efforts. The presentation will provide a multistep process to support school counselors.

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

FRANKLIN C

D5 – Exploring the Path: Pursuing a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision

Sarah Hope - John Carroll University

Alana Stanbery-Sigg - Walden University

Interested in earning a doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision? This session will connect school counselors with representatives from doctoral programs across the state and feature current and former doctoral students sharing their experiences. Learn about program options, admissions, and what life is really like as a doctoral student in counselor education.

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

FAIRFIELD

D6 – Bills, Bills, Bills: Not Yours, But Those of the Statehouse

Heather Fairs - Ohio School Counselor Association

We will review current legislation that impacts our work as school counselors. We will focus on the legislation that either has recently passed or those bills that are being currently considered. School counselors need to be aware of the work at the state level and how our work may change based on laws.

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

MORROW

D7 – Effective SEL Lessons for Middle and High School Students

Jessica Meyer - Reynoldsburg City Schools

With 800-1,000+ students, it can be hard to present timely, relevant lessons in a traditional way. Due to core instruction time, it can also be difficult for the school counselor to utilize instruction time for guidance. In this session you will learn how to use data to provide effective and relevant SEL lessons in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Middle and High School day.

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

KNOX

D8 – Beyond the Office: Creative Counseling in Everyday Spaces

Taylor Piatak - Hamilton Township High School

Caley Stevens - Hamilton Twp HS

Some of the most impactful conversations happen in informal spaces like lunchrooms or hallways. Showcasing a creative lunchroom initiative where counselors lead interactive, game-style activities designed to open up real conversations around key SEL topics—including emotional regulation, healthy relationships, decision-making, stress management, and even academic and College/Career readiness. Activities are aligned with Ohio's statewide mandates on student wellness, behavioral health and academic requirements.

1 CONTACT HOUR

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

MARION

D9 – Youth Gambling: Risks, Consequences, and Prevention Strategies

Abdullah Mahmood - Maryhaven, Inc.

Janet Thode - Maryhaven, Inc

This presentation equips school counselors with the knowledge and tools to address gambling among K–12 students. It covers the warning signs, risk factors, and consequences of youth gambling—both online and offline. Counselors will learn how to identify at-risk students, initiate supportive conversations, and implement prevention strategies within the school setting. Emphasis is placed on early intervention, family involvement, and connecting students with appropriate resources.

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

REGENCY FOYER (3RD FLOOR)

OSCA Member Listening Session

OSCA Board of Directors

During this session, OSCA members will have an opportunity to engage with representatives of the OSCA Board of Directors to share insights about what is happening within the profession and how OSCA can better serve members. This session will be offered during four time blocks throughout the day. Members who participate in the listening sessions will be entered into a drawing to win a FREE ASCA 2026 Conference registration in New Orleans.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

MORROW

E1 – Empowering School Counselors to Implement Best Practices in Suicide Prevention Programming

Rachel Jones - Nationwide Children's Hospital

Shannon Gregory - Nationwide Children's Hospital

This presentation will review the state requirements for suicide prevention programming through the Safety and Violence Education (SAVE) Students Act (House Bill 123), briefly acknowledging the varying strengths and limitations of approved programs. We will explore best practices for implementing suicide prevention programming in schools, will share the benefits of and preparation needed for enhanced suicide screening in conjunction with programming, and identify how to partner with community supports to ensure safe implementation.

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

FAIRFIELD

E2 – How Kindness Can Change Your School, Decrease Bullying and Improve Mental Health

Stuart Muszynski - Kindland (Values-in-Action Foundation)

Susan Muszynski, PhD - Values-in-Action Foundation

Thea Sako - Copley-Fairlawn Middle School

Kindness is proven to decrease anxiety and depression, improve performance both in schools and the workplace, and impart a valuable life skill to students. Values-in-Action's Kindland programming on the most violent high school in Cleveland reduced suspensions by 78%, increased the graduation rate 43% and eliminated in-school fights. See how Kindland can become a staple behind PBIS, SEL and MTSS in your school.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

FRANKLIN A

E3 – Forging Partnerships: Helping Students Experiencing Homelessness Transition to College

Danielle Rains - Project Connect

Elizabeth Shipman Laurenson - Project Connect

Students experiencing homelessness in high school are protected under the McKinney Vento Act of 1987. This legislation does not extend to post secondary institutions and leaves this population of students at risk for homelessness into adulthood. By local school district liaisons partnering with post secondary institutions we can build a bridge to success for students experiencing homelessness. Please join us as we share with you current legislation, best practices in partnership and strategies to advocate in Ohio for students to succeed in post secondary institutions.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

FRANKLIN B

E4 – HB8: Parents Bill of Rights Networking & Collaboration

Heather Fairs - Ohio School Counselor Association

With the provisions of HB8 (Parents Bill of Rights) now in place, many school counselors are struggling to understand how to navigate the law to ensure compliance while also being able to support students. This session is a time for those who would like to network with other school counselors to ask questions and learn what others are doing.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

FRANKLIN C

E5 – Educator to Advocate: Using Shared Skills To Navigate Your Way From Classroom to Counselor's Office

Aaron Eechaute-Lopez - The Miami Valley School

Ashley Gloor - Xenia Community Schools

This workshop explores the transition from teaching to school counseling, highlighting transferable classroom skills while remaining valuable for all counselors. Former teachers will discover how to adapt past experiences to counseling contexts, while those without teaching backgrounds will gain fresh perspectives on using classroom strategies. Through collaborative activities and exercises, participants will develop practical techniques that bridge these complementary fields. This session helps provide encouragement to find common ground strategies between counselors and educators.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

CHAMPAIGN

E6 – Exploring Typologies of Student-Teacher Relationships, School Belonging, and Safety in U.S. Schools

Zhi Jie Lee - The Ohio State University

Juan Chavez - Columbus City Schools

Hanghang Li - The Ohio State University

This presentation will discuss student-teacher relationships, school belonging, and sense of school safety and how they interact to form distinct student typologies and inform targeted school counseling interventions. Drawing on literature and a large-scale dataset, the session will emphasize the significance of these variables to support students' social-emotional development and academic outcomes. Attendees will gain practical strategies aligned with the Multi-Tiered System of Supports model to explore student experiences and design multilevel support interventions for all students.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

KNOX

E7 – Unleashing Success: The Power of Therapy Dogs in Schools

Samantha Muniz - United Local Schools

In today's fast-changing educational landscape, fostering emotional well-being in students is crucial. Rocco, an 8-year-old Newfoundland and School Therapy Dog, helps teach empathy, kindness, and emotional regulation. Join us to explore how therapy dogs can benefit your school, the certification process, and practical steps to get started. Attendees will interact with Rocco and gain insights into how therapy dogs support both students and educators in navigating modern challenges.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

FRANKLIN D

E8 – Leveraging Community Connections in Small Districts to Provide Relevant Elementary Career Education

Natalie Storie - Brookville Elementary School

Jamie Neely - Brookville Intermediate School

This session will explore navigating practical current strategies for integrating career education into the elementary school experience by harnessing the power of community connections. Learn how you can create engaging learning experiences such as career days, in-class lessons and teacher directed units with the help of local businesses, companies and parents. We'll share examples from our own work, implementation tips and ideas to inspire young learners to dream big about their futures, all while aligning with career readiness standards.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

MARION

E9 – A Unique Position: Prescribed Roles Versus Reality of Practice for Urban School Counselors

Angela Clarke - Columbus City Schools

Melissa Lafayette - The Ohio State University

This session will investigate current issues in urban school counseling. We will discuss the disconnect between theoretical models and the actual daily work of urban school counselors, along with their perceptions of the ASCA National Model. Key themes—including "The Missing School Secretary," "The Inverted Pyramid," and "ASCA Burnout"—will be examined in detail. Additionally, we will explore potential shifts in practice and strategies for monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of these changes.

1 CONTACT HOUR

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

REGENCY FOYER (3RD FLOOR)

OSCA Member Listening Session

OSCA Board of Directors

During this session, OSCA members will have an opportunity to engage with representatives of the OSCA Board of Directors to share insights about what is happening within the profession and how OSCA can better serve members. This session will be offered during four time blocks throughout the day. Members who participate in the listening sessions will be entered into a drawing to win a FREE ASCA 2026 Conference registration in New Orleans.

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

FRANKLIN A

F1 – Elementary School Career Awareness and Exploration

Rebecca School - Bedford City Schools

Career Awareness and Exploration can be meaningful and fun in our earliest grades, and this presentation will support Elementary School Counselors in using evidence-based best practices for our third domain with manageable, stackable components. Introducing Career Technology Education and Skilled Trades will help students and families connect their education to future career opportunities, collaborating with parents and community members and recognizing their contributions and hard work.

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

FRANKLIN B

F2 – Survive and Thrive: Insights for New School Counselors

Robyn Walsh - Capital University

Lisa Pontius - Canal Winchester Local Schools

Darin Billiter - Jones Middle School

Your first few years as a school counselor are full of challenges and celebrations. This presentation will go over lessons learned from new and seasoned school counselors that they wish they had known in their first few years. They will go over interventions and programs that they have found successful as well as training or interest areas they would recommend for new school counselors. This will be full of tips and tricks for anyone beginning their career or switching schools!

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

FAIRFIELD

F3 – Self-Regulation: What It Takes to Be Successful in School & Life

William DeMeo - Specialty Psychological Services

Self-regulation has emerged as a key predictor of health, well-being and education success. This fast pace, dynamic and interactive workshop will examine the conscious and nonconscious processes by which students regulate their thoughts, emotions, attention, behavior, and impulses. Individual differences in self-regulatory capacities are explored, as are developmental pathways. Discover practical and effective neurological strategies for helping students develop this vital skill that will not only impact their success in school but more importantly in life

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

MORROW

F4 – Industry-Recognized Credentials 101

Connor Rigney - Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

Learn the intricacies of Industry-Recognized Credentials in the State of Ohio. We will start with a short background on the list itself before going into how you can integrate Industry-Recognized Credentials into your school and your curriculum.

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

FRANKLIN C

F5 – Beyond The Game: Research-Based Strategies to Better Support Student-Athletes

Dara Perry - Akron Public Schools

This session explores a multidisciplinary approach to supporting student-athletes who face significant challenges, including academic pressure, performance expectations, and managing complexities of their identities. By integrating an innovative evidence-based framework tailored for athletics counselors will be equipped to utilize their knowledge to incorporate proactive and preventative programming that helps student-athletes improve their opportunity of reaching post-graduation success beyond the desire to optimize sports performances.

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

FRANKLIN D

F6 – Increasing Sense of Belonging for Your Staff & How to Address Toxic Culture

Nick Rediger - Lincoln Elementary - Gahanna-Jefferson

Sense of belonging, a topic usually limited to student engagement, will be discussed in relation to teachers and school staff. At a time when teacher burn-out and staff turnover is already at high levels, toxic culture can erode a school climate quickly. During this session, school counselors will learn ways to teach staff how to avoid toxic culture. Research on top causes of workplace toxic culture will be shared, as well as effective and practical tips on what to do when it pops up. Participants will walk away with practical tips that can be shared with their own staff.

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

MARION

F7 – Purposeful Data: Demonstrating Your Impact as a School Counselor

Diana Arie - Peachblow Crossing Elementary

School counselors do meaningful work every day- but how do you show it? In this session, participants will learn practical strategies for collecting, analyzing, and sharing data. Participants will walk away with ideas for quick and simple data collection with students. We will discuss ways to analyze and share the data collected with stakeholders in your school community. Participants will also gain tips for gathering and documenting evidence, including the data you've collected throughout the year, for the Ohio School Counselor Evaluation System.

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

CHAMPAIGN

F8 – Bridging High School and College: How Modern States Unlocks Free Credit

Michelle Riffe - Gallia county local schools

Shaun Yoder - SYC Strategies

Learn how South Gallia High School and other early adopters across Ohio are using Modern States to help students earn college credit—at no cost. This session will explore strategies for integrating Modern States into existing coursework, explain how students access the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), and share implementation insights from the front lines. Attendees will leave with tools to start or strengthen their school's use of this free, flexible resource.

1 CONTACT HOUR

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

KNOX

F9 – Erika's Lighthouse: A HB 123/SAVE Students Act Approved, Suicide & Violence Prevention Program

Derick Elkin - Erika's Lighthouse

This session will guide participants through free skills-based, tier-1, early intervention programs that meet HB 123/SAVE Students Act requirements for suicide prevention & violence prevention to provide lasting positive effects in students' well-being. Recent reports on youth mental health show that 1 in 3 youth experience poor mental health, 1 in 5 have seriously considered suicide, and 1 in 10 have attempted suicide. Schools are uniquely positioned to support students and play a crucial role in providing students with quality education and safe and supportive environments.

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

FRANKLIN A

G1 – Making Community Connections: Finding Your Local Resources

Clarissa Bush - Clarissa Bush, Knox County Career Center

Melissa Nowicki - Knox County Career Center

Are you tired of not being able find that "right" local resource you wish you could offer a student? Learn our hints and tips of how to gather your school crew to get out into your community to go on a local resource tour and build the connections that your school and students need!

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

FRANKLIN B

G2 – Developing and Implementing a Comprehensive School-Based Suicide Prevention Program

Darcy Haag Granello - The Ohio State University

Paul Granello - International Association for Wellness Counseling

Data highlights the mental health crisis in schools, but current interventions are often piecemeal in nature, containing aspects of suicide prevention without a cohesive and comprehensive approach that best serves the needs of students. This presentation provides a step-by-step practical strategy for developing and implementing a comprehensive model for school-based suicide prevention. The model is grounded in research and best practices, including research and practice of the presenters. Participants will learn how to move forward with creating and implementing the model in their schools.

1 CONTACT HOUR (OCSWMFT CES PENDING)

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

FRANKLIN C

G3 – Helping School Counselors Help Students with the FAFSA

Edward Hill - The Management Council

Carlos Bing - Ohio Department of Higher Education

During the session, we'll explore available FAFSA completion tools while discussing the benefits of FAFSA completion for students.

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

FRANKLIN D

G4 – Utilizing Business Advisory Councils to Help Students Achieve Success Beyond High School

Michelle Washington - Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

In this session attendees will learn of the vast resources available through these strategic Business-Education Partnerships to help students have exposure to various career fields, curriculum alignment to industry skills needed for success in in-demand jobs and opportunities for work-based learning.

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

FAIRFIELD

G5 – Level Up Your AI Craft: Smart Prompting & App Smashing

Karen Stepic - Akron Public Schools

AI provides powerful new tools for school counselors—level up your program with smart prompting and creative app-smashing. In this interactive session, you'll learn to write prompts that let your unique vision and voice shine through, creatively combining AI chatbots with image and song generation tools to enhance your counseling resources. You'll leave inspired and equipped with practical templates and ideas to confidently integrate AI into your practice.

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

MORROW

G6 – Bridges to Belonging: Connecting Families, Schools, and Communities for Lasting Impact

Jacie Womack - Montgomery County ESC

This session will introduce a transformative, evidence-based approach to Family and Community Engagement. Moving beyond the traditional “come to us” approach, this model emphasizes meeting families where they are and fostering authentic, equitable partnerships. Recognizing the role of counselors as key connectors, this session will draw from our work & district partnerships to share best practices for engaging families & accessing community resources. Participants will walk away with a toolkit & resources to effectively engage families & support mental wellness in their schools.

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

CHAMPAIGN

G7 – 1040 Unity: Helping Refugees Feel Welcome

Lisa Sims - Akron Public Schools

It is always tricky for a new student arriving at a new school; however, the stakes increase when the student is from a different country. Our school had to pivot to help these student refugees with the acculturation process and help the American students accept them despite their cultural differences. 1040 Unity is an afterschool club that supports the student refugees in having a sense of community with themselves and American students. This presentation will discuss how the club came to be, how we managed the club, and the outcomes.

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

KNOX

G8 – Building a Unified Approach: Integrating SEL into a District-Wide Framework

Stephanie Hammond - Akron Public Schools

Nicole Hassan - Akron Public Schools

Taylor Hair - Akron Public Schools

This session highlights how one urban district created a cohesive, developmentally appropriate SEL framework grounded in CASEL's core competencies and integrated into PBIS. With schools across the district at different stages of SEL implementation, the goal was to enhance and align existing structures. Attendees will explore strategies for effective implementation, stakeholder engagement, alignment with the State One Plan, and professional development to support academic, behavioral, and emotional growth.

1 CONTACT HOUR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

MARION

G9 – Brain Games to Career Gains: Exploring YouScience

Sarah Becker - Ottawa-Glandorf High School

Lindsey Brinkman - Ottawa-Glandorf High School

Have you heard of YouScience? Do you wonder what it is or how it can be used? This session will show how counselors and teachers can use engaging Brain Games and YouScience resources to help students discover their aptitudes, interests, and career pathways. By integrating interactive activities with personalized YouScience insights, students gain a deeper understanding of their strengths and how they align with future academic and career opportunities.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN A

H1 – Incorporating a Therapy Animal into your School Counseling Office

Kami Blakeman - Central Trail Elementary

Samantha Burkholder - Sylvania Schools

School Counselor Kami Blakeman shares her story of getting her bunny, Scout, certified as a therapy animal through Pet Partners. Learn about the certification process and how Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) can improve your work and your therapeutic relationships with students. You will be provided with a practical framework that facilitates incorporating evidence-based AAT into your current program. Scout will be present for pets and cuddles!

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN B

H2 – Social Justice Counseling in Action: Turning Advocacy into Practice

Jocelyn Thomas - Whitehall Yearling High School

Melissa Lafayette - The Ohio State University

School counselors are powerful agents for equity, but turning advocacy into daily action takes intention. This session offers practical strategies to identify and address systemic inequities using real-world scenarios and data-informed practices. Learn how to center student voice, disrupt barriers, and make social justice a consistent part of your comprehensive school counseling program.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN C

H3 – Empowering Student Voices: A Peer Leader Panel on Creating Change through Sources of Strength

Scott Koebel - Newark City Schools

Erin Horn - Sources of Strength

This interactive workshop showcases the impact of Sources of Strength, an evidence-based suicide prevention program, through the voices of its high school-aged Peer Leaders. Utilizing a strength-based and upstream prevention approach, Sources of Strength aims to enhance protective factors and promote help-seeking behaviors among young people. This session features a panel of current Peer Leaders from a local Ohio school, offering attendees a unique opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of program implementation and its proven positive effects.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FRANKLIN D

H4 – Enhancing and Updating Your District's Crisis Response Plan

Cara Sanders - Massillon City Schools

This session will emphasize the importance of having a comprehensive district crisis response plan, whether you're starting from scratch or refining an existing one. Drawing from collaborative experience, we'll share strategies for simplifying & streamlining the plan to ensure clarity & effectiveness. Participants will discover key resources that guided our process & learn how to engage stakeholders in meaningful ways. Our approach, endorsed by the local Mental Health & Recovery Board, will empower you to foster a culture of preparedness & resilience within your district.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

MORROW

H5 – Create Hope and Build Resilience through Career Intervention with Middle School Students

Mei Tang - University of Cincinnati

Drew Mitchell - Loveland City Schools

Machen Champion - University of Cincinnati

Aneesa Bhimani-Trimble - University of Cincinnati/Warren County ESC

This session will illustrate an innovative partnership between counselor training programs and school districts aimed at supporting middle school students facing challenges due to lack of motivation and family support. The intervention strategies incorporate the principles of Career Construction, Social Cognitive Career Development, and a Hope-Based approach. These strategies help students understand themselves in relation to learning and future careers, and develop skills to navigate changes and overcome barriers for future career readiness.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

FAIRFIELD

H6 – Ethics in Action: Preventing Negligence in School Counseling

Sarah Hope - John Carroll University

Mariam Hammoud - John Carroll University

This session will explore how school counselors can align their practice with ethical standards to prevent negligence. Topics include understanding legal terms, best practices for academic advising and recommendation letters, and conducting suicide risk assessments ethically and effectively. Learn practical strategies to strengthen your duty of care while supporting student success.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

KNOX

H7 – DEW Career Exploration & Planning: Setting the Stage for Ohio's Future

Kayla Mack - Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

This session, led by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, will introduce the state's emerging vision for career exploration and planning. As Ohio prepares to launch a comprehensive, statewide effort in the coming years, this session offers an early look at the foundational strategies, goals, and opportunities for districts to support students in discovering and preparing for meaningful careers.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

MARION

H8 – Cultivating Success: Strategies to Support Counselors & Drive Student Engagement

Lacey Caviness - PowerSchool

In today's ever-evolving educational landscape, school counselors play a crucial role in guiding students towards their academic and career aspirations. In this session we will showcase real-world examples of schools and districts effectively leveraging technologies, such as PowerSchool, to support counselors and drive student engagement. Participants will gain insights into best practices, implementation strategies, and lessons learned, equipping them with actionable ideas to enhance their own counseling programs.

1 CONTACT HOUR

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

CHAMPAIGN

H9 – Creating S.P.A.C.E.: Group Counseling Lessons from Black Girls to Support Student Growth and Change

Heather Hill, PhD - Evergreen Educational Consulting & Coaching

As schools and students navigate rapid social, emotional, and developmental change, counselors need responsive new approaches. Drawing on a study of Black girls' experiences in independent schools, this session introduces the S.P.A.C.E. framework — a healing-centered group counseling model that affirms identity, fosters resilience, and builds belonging. Participants will gain practical strategies for creating inclusive, student-centered spaces that support growth, leadership, and wellbeing across diverse school contexts.

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

FRANKLIN D

11 – Implementing an Evidence-Based Crisis Response

Meagan Neumann - Wadsworth City Schools

Carolyn Colbow - Highland Local Schools

Attendees will explore implementing a county-wide crisis response program for public schools, rooted in evidence-based practices. Key topics include proactive planning, swift intervention, and support systems. Through case studies and discussions, participants will understand methodology, assess protocols, and implement strategies to reduce liability and enhance support for students and staff.

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

FRANKLIN A

12 – Change CAN be Good: Creative & Inexpensive Large Group Guidance Lesson Objects and Materials to Promote Deeper Levels of Learning

Laura Swinsburg - Summit County School Counselors Association

When K-12 school counselors are asked to present a guidance lesson, they know positive student outcomes are crucial. Yet, with the many hats they wear, the many mental stressors they experience, and the ever-increasing time crunch, guidance lessons may take the "back burner" in both effort and delivery. Discover some easy to use materials and objects that breathe new life into a variety of typical SEL lessons and adapt these tools to any grade level for deeper student understanding, interest, and student engagement.

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

FRANKLIN B

13 – Application Bootcamp: Empowering High School Seniors for College Application Success

Donita Jackson - Indian Hill High School

Ester Hall - Indian Hill High School

Adam Lankford - Ohio University

Transitioning from high school to college can be daunting for seniors, especially navigating the application. The Application Bootcamp program supports seniors in navigating the college application process through a structured, school-day event led by counselors and admissions reps. Held on the first Friday of the school year for accessibility and equity, students engage in three key sessions—Logistics, Mock Application Review, and Essay Writing—followed by 1:1 feedback. Attendees gain confidence, clear next steps, and insight into college expectations.

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

CHAMPAIGN

14 – Ignite Early Ambitions

Jolene Young - Rushmore Elem. - Huber Heights

Uncover how early career exploration influences students' future aspirations. Through interactive career days, educators can introduce students to a range of professions, helping them understand various career paths and the skills required to thrive. Through sparking curiosity and broadening horizons early on, ensuring every student, no matter their background, can imagine a future full of opportunities. Take away practical strategies for collaborating with local businesses and professionals to elevate Career Day events and connect students with real-world career experiences.

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

FAIRFIELD

15 – Counseling with Compassion: Practical Approaches for Supporting Students with Severe Behaviors

Dusty Timmons - Kent State University

Kate Hill - Kent State University

Jessica Meadows - Kent State University

This presentation will equip school counselors with practical strategies for working with children who have severe behavior challenges and/or conduct disorder. Attendees will explore evidence-based interventions, ways to collaborate with families and staff, and tools to support behavior regulation while maintaining a strengths-based, trauma-informed approach.

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

MORROW

16 – Rethinking ADHD: Understanding the Brain Behind the Behavior

Alaina Schrader - WVU

ADHD is more than hyperactivity—it's a different way of experiencing the world! In this lively session, you'll dive into the ADHD brain, bust myths, explore the science, and learn why traditional methods often fall short. Walk away with real strategies to support students' organization, emotional regulation, and resilience—plus a few insights for your own life, too. Expect humor, practical tips, and inspiration to better understand and empower neurodivergent learners!

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

KNOX

17 – Good Grieving: A Guide to Small Group Grief Counseling for Children

Lori Morgan - Green Local Schools

Grief is something we all face as counselors. We cannot change our students' circumstances, we can offer support on their grief journey. This session will focus on how to go about this with ideas and strategies for setting up and running a grief group. It will include activities to do with your group, ideas for building connections and funding. It will discuss information about the effects of trauma and grief on our brains and bodies. Finally, you will hear information directly shared by students about things they wish adults knew about their grief journey.

1 CONTACT HOUR

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

FRANKLIN C

18 – College Credit Plus Listening Session: Discussing Ohio's Dual Enrollment Opportunities and Challenges

Alex Perry - College in High School Alliance/Foresight Law + Policy

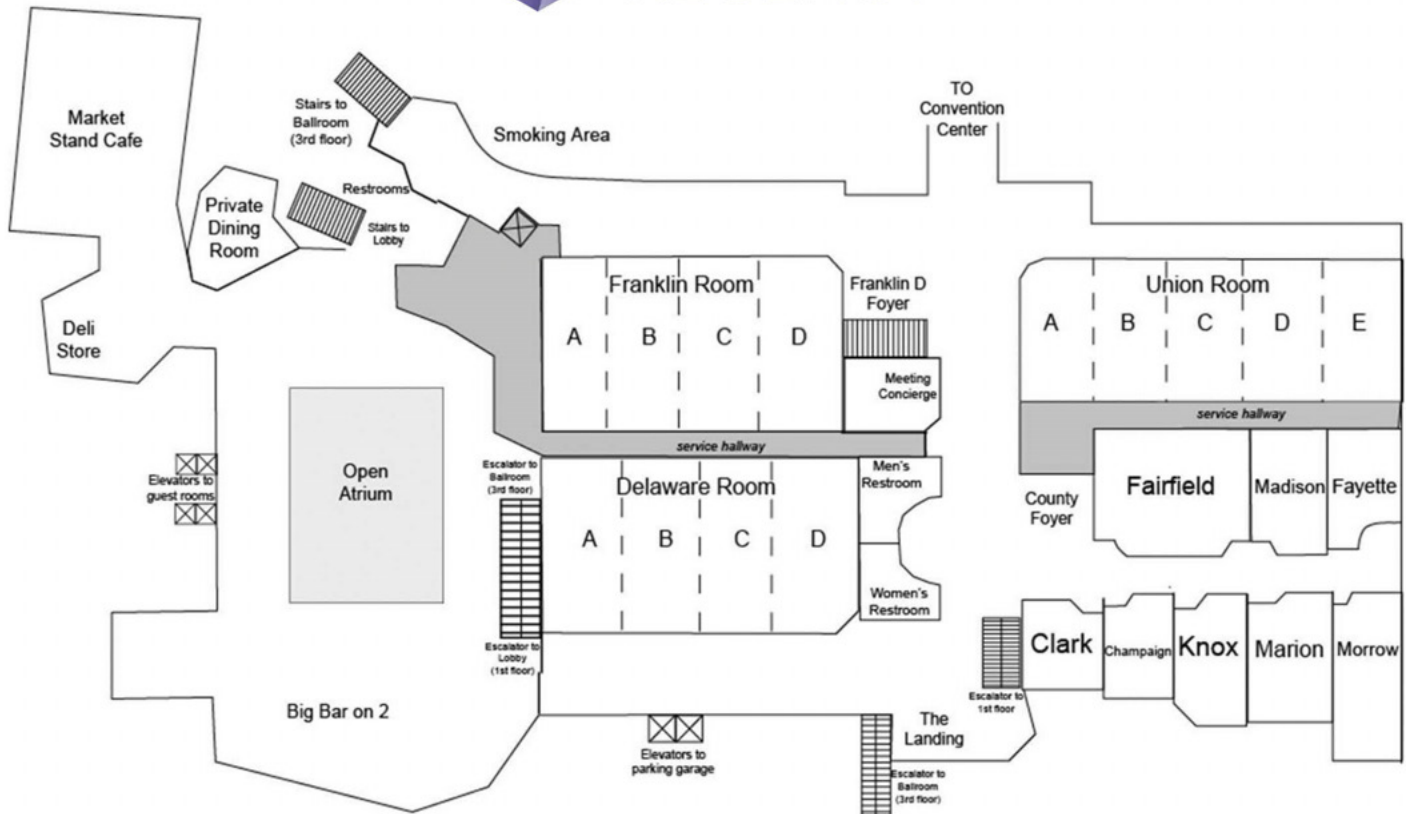
As College Credit Plus celebrates its 10th anniversary of expanding dual enrollment opportunities to high school students across the state, please join representatives from the Ohio Department of Higher Education and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for a listening session in which the agencies want to hear your thoughts and opinions about the current implementation of College Credit Plus. What is working well about the program? What could be improved? What should the state's vision for College Credit Plus be as it enters its second decade? Come by and share your thoughts to shape the state's thinking about how to strengthen and improve access to college courses for high school students!

1 CONTACT HOUR

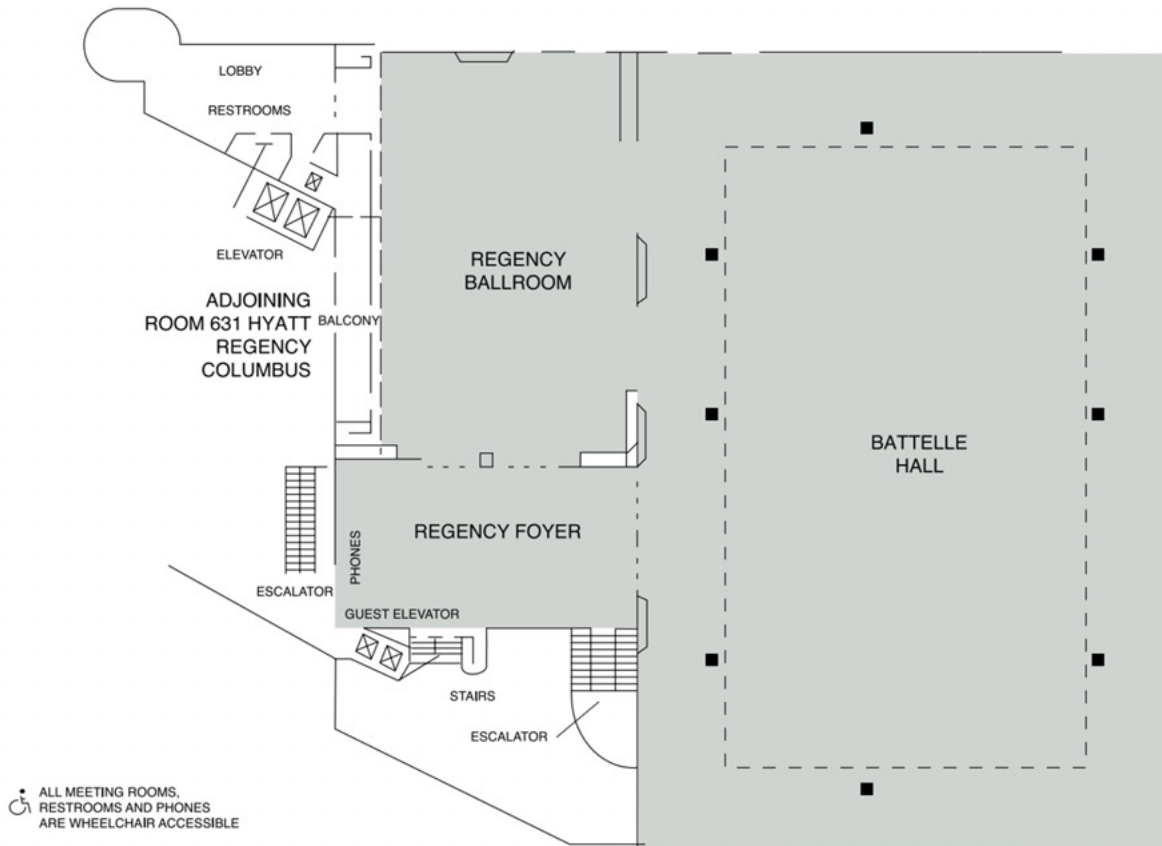


HYATT
REGENCY®

2nd FLOOR



3rd FLOOR



OHIO SCHOOL COUNSELOR CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 15-17, 2025

NAVIGATING CHANGE



NEW DIRECTIONS IN
SCHOOL COUNSELING

HYATT REGENCY COLUMBUS

350 N HIGH STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215