



NOVEMBER 8-10, 2023
EMBASSY SUITES
CONCORD/CHARLOTTE, NC



REIMAGINE

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Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 3:30 p.m.

PRE-CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SESSION

This session is open to
all conference attendees



Deep Kindness

Houston Kraft

ABOUT THIS SESSION: In a world filled with division and anxiety, Houston will talk about practical ways to infuse compassion into the schools we serve and our daily personal routines. From his experience speaking in over 600 schools and working with over 6,000 schools as co-founder of CharacterStrong, he will share powerful insights and exercises to help create more kind communities.

SPEAKER BIO: Houston is the co-founder of CharacterStrong – an organization that provides curricula and trainings to help teach leadership, character, and social-emotional skills in over 6,000 schools globally. In 2020, his first book, *Deep Kindness* was published by Simon & Schuster. His mom is his hero and her best life lesson is to “hug like you mean it.”

Houston will also be presenting two breakout sessions.

Thursday, November 9, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION

Closing the Attitude Gap: How to Fire Up Your Students to Strive for Success

Principal Baruti Kafele

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Based on Principal Kafele’s best selling book, *Closing the Attitude Gap: How to Fire Up Your Students to Strive for Success*, Principal Kafele asserts that the various gaps in student achievement continue to rank amongst the most important discussions in education today. Equally important for educators is the continued lack of student motivation, undesirable student behaviors and apathy towards achievement across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic lines. In this high energy, interactive session, Principal Kafele argues that one of the greatest difficulties to closing the various achievement gaps is the overwhelming assumption that achievement is in fact, the problem. He says that the achievement gap is a consequence of the failure to adequately address what he calls, the Attitude Gap (the gap between those students who have the will to strive for academic excellence and those who do not) that continues to persist in American classrooms. Principal Kafele contends that unmotivated, underachieving children are actually “most brilliant and most highly capable” but their attitudes toward themselves, toward learning and toward the prospects for their futures are preventing them from striving to maximize their potential. He says that when educators therefore make the transformation of their students’ attitudes toward themselves, learning and the prospects for their futures a priority, the probability for their achievement increases exponentially! Principal Kafele will provide educators with strategies within a framework for closing the attitude gap toward the ultimate elimination of underachievement in their classrooms and schools. He will simultaneously challenge educators to look honestly within themselves toward ensuring academic success through the following: environment for learning, attitudes toward students, relationship with students, compassion for students and relevance in instruction.

SPEAKER BIO: A highly-regarded urban public school educator in New Jersey for over twenty years, Principal Kafele distinguished himself in the classroom and as a school leader. As an elementary school teacher in East Orange, NJ, he was selected as the East Orange School District and Essex County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. As a principal, he led the transformation of four different schools, including “the mighty” Newark Tech, which went from a low-performing school in need of improvement to recognition by U.S. News and World Report Magazine as one of America’s best high schools. Currently, Principal Kafele is one of the most sought-after speakers for transforming the attitudes of at-risk student populations in America.

Kafele will also be presenting a breakout session.





TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023 | 7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.

- 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. On-Site Conference Registration and Information Desk Open
- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. NCSCA Delegate Assembly
- 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Exhibitors Setup
- 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Leadership Day Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Pre-Conference Sessions
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Snack Break with Exhibitors
- 1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Exhibits Open
- 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pre-Conference General Session with Keynote Speaker – Houston Kraft
(Open to all conference attendees)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 | 7:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.

- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. On-Site Conference Registration and Information Desk Open
- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Exhibits Open
- 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Silent Auction
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Opening Session Kick Off: Welcome, Introduction, Regional Roll Call, Updates & Awards with Keynote Speaker – Principal Kafele
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break with Exhibitors
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Program Session 1
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Boxed Lunches (Name Badge Required)
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Past Presidents Luncheon
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Graduate Student Luncheon and Panel
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Program Session 2
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Break with Exhibitors
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Graduate Student Poster Sessions
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Program Session 3
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Break with Exhibitors
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Program Session 4
- 4:40 p.m. – 5:10 p.m. Regional Meetings
- 5:10 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Celebration Reception & Silent Auction

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023 | 6:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

- 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Fun Run/Walk
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Self-Care Zumba Session
- 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. On-Site Conference Registration and Information Desk Open
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Coffee Service Only
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Exhibits Open
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Core Skills Building Workshops
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Snack Break with Exhibitors
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Core Skills Building Workshops

Visit 50+ Exhibitors at the Conference!



PRE-CONFERENCE LEARNING INSTITUTE



Fall Conference

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 12:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (Lunch not included)

The Pre-Conference Learning Institute includes additional opportunities for more professional development and CEU contact hours. The sessions generally cover more in-depth information and allow more opportunity for discussion. **These sessions are not included in the conference registration fee.** Space is limited for all sessions. Interested participants are encouraged to register early.

All Pre-Conference sessions are being held at the same time, so you may only choose one session to attend.



1. School Counselor Connect and Collaboration

Andrea Burston

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Whether you're in your 1st or 21st year of school counseling things are constantly changing. Learn tips and best practices in creating and implementing a comprehensive school counseling program. Tips include creative ways to connect with stakeholders, getting organized and securing funding for counselor programs. Join this helpful and interactive session with tools you will be able to implement immediately!

SPEAKER BIO: Andrea Burston is a former high school computer/technology teacher turned elementary school counselor. She is the school counselor for Wake County Public Schools working at JY Joyner IB Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, NC. Andrea is also the writer of the *jjycounselor* blog (<http://jyjoynercounselor.blogspot.com>) where she shares her enjoyment of her career as well as many counselor ideas with school counselors from all over the world. She loves using technology and is always looking for new and innovative ways to integrate technology into her school counseling program. Andrea has presented at various conferences and workshops on using technology in counseling programs.

Andrea will also be presenting two breakout sessions.



2. Depression: Signs and Strategies

Melisa Marsh

ABOUT THIS SESSION: While depression is a common problem in the world today, it often goes unreported and untreated. Many of our students believe they are dealing with this disease alone and in isolation. In this training, participants will be offered tools for intervention so that no student has to struggle alone. We will cover topics such as:

- What is depression
- Signs and symptoms of depression in schools
- How school staff can support students with depression
- Successful management of depression

SPEAKER BIO: Melisa Marsh, Ph.D. currently serves as the Supervisor of School Counseling for the Cobb County school district in Marietta, GA., where she coordinates the development and supervision of school counseling, student advisement, crisis response, and Hospital Homebound programs. She has 17 years of experience in filling the roles of Georgia State High School Counselor, Supervisor of Counseling, and School Counseling and Advisement Consultant. Melisa received her Ph.D. in Counseling Education and Personnel Services and her Specialist Degree in School Counseling from the University of Georgia. She received her Advanced Masters in School Counseling Program from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Marsh is also the author of two books in the 15-Minute Focus series: *Suicide: Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention* and *Depression: Signs and Strategies for Counselors, Educators, and Parents*, along with her latest workbook titled *Stress and Burnout in Education*. Missy lives in the Atlanta Metro area with her husband and puppy. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, yoga, cycling, running, hiking, and spending as much time outdoors as possible.

Melisa will also be presenting two breakout sessions.



3. Technology Tips, Tricks, and Shortcuts for Counselors and Educators

Russ Sabella

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Learn about the most powerful features of various applications including word processing, spreadsheet, multimedia, web browsing, and social networking. Dr. Sabella will share his most coveted tips, tricks, and short cuts to help you become more effective, efficient, and have more fun in your work! Lots of handouts and time for questions and answers.

SPEAKER BIO: Dr. Russell Sabella is currently a Professor of Counseling in the College of Health Professions & Social Work, Florida Gulf Coast University and President of Sabella & Associates. He is well known for his Technology Boot Camp for Counselors workshops conducted throughout the country. Dr. Sabella is Past President (2003-2004) of the American School Counselor Association. He has trained and consulted with thousands of school counselors, educators, parents, and organizational leaders throughout the country.

Russ is the co-author of two books entitled *Confronting Sexual Harassment Learning Activities for Teens* and *Counseling in the 21st Century: Using Technology to Improve Practice*. He is also the author of the popular *SchoolCounselor.com*, *A Friendly and Practical Guide to the World Wide Web* as well as *GuardingKids.com*, *A Practical Guide to Keeping Kids Out of High Tech Trouble*.

Russ will also be presenting two breakout sessions.



Friday, November 10, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. & 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Core Skills Building Workshops are included in the conference registration fee and are being held at the same time. Each session will be presented twice, once from 9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. and again from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



1. De-Escalation Strategies 101: Diffusing a Crisis

Elishia Basner

ABOUT THIS SESSION: It can be a frightening experience when students lose control of their emotions, impacting the safety and well-being of everyone involved. This session will provide an overview of why students lose control of their emotions and what we, as adults, can do to respond in the moment to de-escalate the situation. Participants will learn proactive strategies to help children of all ages develop regulation and coping skills and avoid future crises.

SPEAKER BIO: Elishia is the Founder of the *School Counseling Tribe*, an online platform that provides high-value resources to school counselors and parents to better support children. Elishia is passionate about empowering schools to create safe environments where all children can learn regardless of their trauma histories. Elishia has over 14 years of experience in counseling and education; she has a Master's degree in the Science of School Counseling and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

In her 14+ year career in the helping profession, she has done everything from working as a school counselor for a decade with every grade level from pre-k through college, in-home counseling with children at risk of removal from social services, managing a 24/7 women's crisis center, and teaching psychology to undergraduates. Elishia is an enthusiastic speaker who helps audiences connect to the information they need to help children thrive.



2. Advocating for and Celebrating Counselor and Student Success

Meredith Draughn

ABOUT THIS SESSION: School counselors are often referred to as the “catch-all” because they truly are involved with all facets of a student's educational experience. When one is invested in academic, social-emotional and career development, it is important to know a little about a lot! With all of the details they are charged with, school counselors can often struggle to share out just exactly what they do and to advocate for their specific roles. This session will help counselors see just how school counselor success = student success and learn simple and creative ways to celebrate and advocate their comprehensive, developmental school counseling programs!

SPEAKER BIO: Meredith Draughn is the 2023 American School Counseling Association's School Counselor of the Year. She was previously selected as North Carolina's 2021-2022 School Counselor of the Year. She has 9 years of experience at both the elementary, middle and high school levels. She received her bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University in Health and Exercise Science and her master's degree from Appalachian State University in Professional School Counseling. Meredith is a National Board Certified School Counselor and is an ASCA School Counseling Leadership Specialist; Mental Health Specialist; Anxiety & Stress Management Specialist; Cultural Competency Specialist; and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Specialist. She is currently the sole school counselor at B. Everett Jordan Elementary School, which earned RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) recognition in 2021.



3. Never Let A Conflict Go To Waste

Phil Echols

ABOUT THIS SESSION: School counselors serve as liaisons between staff, families, and students. Unfortunately, as ambassadors of collaboration, they often find themselves at the heart of many conflicts. Just as clouds have silver linings, conflict can bring attention to existing issues hidden in plain view. Conflict is inevitable, and until it's addressed, it becomes increasingly difficult to work with. Reframing conflict as a learning opportunity can help leaders navigate tension in the workplace that often leaves them feeling unheard, undervalued, and stressed. This session touches on microaggressions, differing perceptions, and other forms of workplace conflict. Participants will leave with guiding principles, strategies, and tools to help navigate conflict.

SPEAKER BIO: Phil Echols, Ed.D, former secondary teacher, school counselor, and administrator of professional learning and Title I programs. Dr. Echols is an Organizational Leadership and Diversity specialist with experience supporting large systems (public and private) in North Carolina and beyond. Areas of expertise include sustainability of instructional practices, effective collaboration, diversity, and coaching. In addition, he has over two decades of experience in education, consulting, public speaking, and facilitation.

Dr. Echols was a 2013 NCSCA Emerging Leader and served as former NCSCA North Central Regional VP. He has presented sessions on effective collaboration, facilitation, diversity, and polarity thinking for ASCD, Learning Forward, and the Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools. In addition, he often teaches about the impact of high-quality exchanges in relationships, diverse perspectives' benefits, and the importance of continuous improvement. Phil believes diversity enriches community, and all have the capacity to learn and grow. His work is anchored in the mission to inspire and support individuals and groups in doing and being their best.



4. Working with Minors in Schools: Legal and Ethical Considerations

Wendy Rock

ABOUT THIS SESSION: School counselors must balance parents' legal right to be the guiding voice in their children's lives with students' need for confidentiality. Participants will explore topics such as responding to potentially suicidal youth, supporting youth from marginalized populations, working with sexually active minor students, FERPA and counselor notes, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), and other sensitive topics. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Ethical Standards for School Counselors (2022) will be reviewed and an ethical decision-making process will be applied to case studies that will support participants in their understanding of the complex nature of around minor's rights to confidentiality and parent's rights while building confidence in their approach to challenging ethical dilemmas.

SPEAKER BIO: A professional school counselor with almost two decades of experience, Dr. Rock joined the Southeastern Louisiana University faculty full-time in the fall of 2017 as an assistant professor. She is a licensed professional counselor/board-approved supervisor, nationally certified counselor, and nationally certified school counselor. She currently serves as the school counseling coordinator. Dr. Rock received her M.Ed. from the University of Texas at Austin in Educational Psychology (concentration in school counseling) and her Ph.D. from the University of Holy Cross (New Orleans) in Counselor Education and Supervision. She presents on a variety of topics at both the state and national levels. She served as a past president of the Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA). She is a past co-Chair of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Positions Statement Committee, a past member of the Louisiana High School ReDESIGN Professional School Counseling Task Force, and a past Associate Editor of The Professional School Counselor. She is a member of the Louisiana ACT Council, a member of the national ACT Steering Committee, a member of the Louisiana Counseling Association Government Relations Committee, Chair of the LSCA Counselor Ethics and Professional Standards Committee, Co-Chair of the Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors (ACES), School Counselor Interest Network, Secondary School Counselors Workgroup, and Chair of the ASCA Ethics Committee. Research interests include school counselor professional identity, the school counselor's role in student mental health, school counselor-principal relationship, school counselor advocacy, and school counselor ethics.

REGISTRATION



Fall Conference

Save on your conference registration by becoming a member of the NCSCA!

Visit www.ncschoolcounselor.org BEFORE registering to get your member number.

REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

I am a current NCSCA member. Yes No #: _____ (required for member rates)

I would like to volunteer at the conference. Yes No I am a first time attendee. Yes No

NAME (as it should appear on name badge) _____ JOB TITLE - (REQUIRED PLEASE) _____

ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

ATTENDEE EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION) _____

WORK ADDRESS _____ COUNTY _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

WORK PHONE () _____ CELL PHONE () _____

SPECIAL NEEDS _____

PLEASE ANSWER: IF YOU WERE TO PURCHASE A NCSCA T-SHIRT AT THE CONFERENCE, WHICH STYLE WOULD YOU PREFER? Short-sleeve Long-sleeve

A. MAIN Conference (Nov. 8-10)

- Early Registration (by Sept. 30, 2023)
- Regular Registration (Oct. 1 - Nov. 5)
- Onsite Registration (after Nov. 5)

NCSCA Member*	Non-Member	Grad Student*/Retiree*
\$135 per person	\$225 per person	\$105 per person
\$145 per person	\$235 per person	\$110 per person
\$155 per person	\$245 per person	\$120 per person

* NCSCA membership must be good through November 10, 2023.

The Main Conference includes access to the Pre-conference Keynote General Session on Wed. Nov. 8, 2023.

B. Thursday ONLY (Nov. 9)

- Early Registration (by Sept. 30, 2023)
- Regular Registration (Oct. 1 - Nov. 5)
- Onsite Registration after Nov. 5)

NCSCA Member*	Non-Member	Grad Student*/Retiree*
\$105 per person	\$200 per person	\$80 per person
\$115 per person	\$210 per person	\$90 per person
\$125 per person	\$220 per person	\$100 per person

(A) Main Conference \$ _____

(B) Thursday Only \$ _____

C. Pre-Conference Learning Institute (Nov. 8)

(Additional fees required. Choose only ONE.)

- 1. School Counselor Connect and Collaboration – Andrea Burson
- 2. Depression: Signs and Strategies – Melisa Marsh
- 3. Technology Tips – Russ Sabella

NCSCA Member*	Non-Member
\$35 per person	\$90 per person
\$35 per person	\$90 per person
\$35 per person	\$90 per person

(C) Pre-Conference \$ _____

Total Due
(A + B + C) \$ _____

REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PAYMENT. PLEASE SEND PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION FORM(S) TOGETHER.

How and Where Do I Pay?

	WEBSITE	EMAIL	FAX	PHONE	MAIL
CREDIT CARD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PURCHASE ORDER		✓	✓		✓
CHECK					✓

WEBSITE: www.ncyionline.org/ncscac

EMAIL: registrations@ncyi.org

FAX: 423-899-4547

PHONE: 866-318-6294

MAIL: National Center for Youth Issues
P.O. Box 22185
Chattanooga, TN 37422-2185

Please make your check or purchase order payable to: **National Center for Youth Issues.**

A W-9 is available on the website.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY: The signed, in consideration of his/her registration of the 2023 NCSCA Fall Conference, releases, holds harmless and discharges the association, management staff and their agents, from any and all actions, claims and demands which may arise out of an accident, casualty or occurrence during said convention. Your signature above acknowledges acceptance of these provisions of registration for all those listed on this form.

PAYMENT METHOD

- PURCHASE ORDER** A COPY OF THE PURCHASE ORDER IS REQUIRED.
(PAYABLE TO NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH ISSUES, P.O. BOX 22185, CHATTANOOGA, TN 37422-2185)
- CHECK ENCLOSED** (MADE PAYABLE TO NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH ISSUES)
- CREDIT CARD** PERSONAL CORPORATE

CARD NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____ CID# _____

NAME ON CARD (PLEASE PRINT) _____

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____ EMAIL _____

PROCESSING FEE: There will be a \$35 service charge for all returned checks and declined credit cards.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If we are forced to cancel the NCSCA Conference because of a "force majeure" event, such as a government restriction on large gatherings that cover the intended size of the conference, then we will issue full refunds of the registrations. Otherwise, our normal cancellation policy will be upheld: Requests for refunds must be received in writing. No refund requests will be granted after October 8, 2023. There is a 20% processing fee for refunds requested prior to August 31, 2023 and a 50% processing fee for all refunds requested September 1 – October 8, 2023. Send cancellation requests to the NCSCA Treasurer at treasurer@ncschoolcounselor.org. The association is not responsible for and cannot give refunds due to problems beyond its control, such as weather and school closings.

On social distancing and other health and safety measures, the regulations/guidelines that apply to hotels and conference centers may change. The NCSCA Conference will conform to all necessary regulations/guidelines that are in place as of the date of the conference.

PLEASE NOTE: The attendee will receive a confirmation to the email address provided when their registration is processed (make sure to check Junk/Spam folders). The sponsors of the conference receive registrant contact information.



Make hotel reservations early! Limited Availability!

Embassy Suites Resort and Convention Center

5400 John Q. Hammons Dr NW • Concord, NC 28027

The Embassy Suites has a **conference rate of \$159 per night, plus tax**, which remains valid for reservations made by **October 23, 2023**, while rooms are available.

TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS

CALL: (704) 455-8200.

Please be sure to mention the “CESNCS” group and the dates of the conference.

REGISTER ONLINE: Visit www.ncyionline.org/ncscac and scroll down to the “Accommodations” section. Click on the link to visit the hotel’s on-line reservation system.



Come Learn and Play!

In the evening, make sure you take time to relax and enjoy the surrounding area. Go to www.ncyionline.org/ncscac to see the things to do around the beautiful Embassy Suites.

Visit Concord Mills, just minutes away and in walking distance from the Embassy Suites!

- You can sit back and relax at the many restaurants at Concord Mills, such as Bonefish Grill, Dave and Busters, and Outback Steakhouse, along with others.
- Concord Mills also has an 24-screen AMC movie theater, so you can finally watch that movie you have been wanting to see.



At Concord Mills enjoy shopping at the Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH, Nike Factory Store, Banana Republic Factory Store, Ann Taylor Factory Store, Tommy Bahama Outlet, and many more!



We hope this conference will educate and equip you to do your job well, and we also hope you will take advantage of the wonderful ways you can relax and be refreshed!