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# NJ SCHOOL COUNSELORS LIGHT THE WAY

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2025

DOUBLETREE SOMERSET HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER • SOMERSET, NJ

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Opening Keynote • September 28, 2025 | 1:00 p.m.

## Navigating the Future: Exploring AI in School Counseling

### Russ Sabella

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Join Russ for an insightful keynote presentation that delves into the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of school counseling. This engaging session is designed for school counselors seeking to comprehend the fundamentals of AI and its application in their profession. Dr. Sabella will equip school counselors with the knowledge and insights needed to leverage AI effectively, fostering a future-ready approach to school counseling. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the transformative potential of AI in shaping the future of your work.

*Russ will continue to “deep dive” into the session for an additional hour with all attendees after a short break.*

**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*.



Morning Keynote • September 29, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.

## Understanding Students Through Their Perspectives

### Tommie Mabry

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** This session will give strategies to provide a space for students to develop a positive perspective on their formal education. This interactive session will provide educators with real-world insight into how shifting their own perspective on their students, can transform the educational process. By taking a deep dive into what shapes students' perspectives, educators can better understand the beliefs, values, and experiences of students who have been labeled as “troubled” or “at risk.”

This session will also allow participants to see the importance of being able to build trust with their students.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Dr. Tommie Mabry grew up in one of Jackson, MS roughest neighborhoods. He was suspended or expelled from several schools due to his behavior. Things started to change for Tommie when he joined an AAU basketball league that traveled around the world. He received a full basketball scholarship to Missouri State University-West Plains and later received a B.A. cum laude in Education from Tougaloo College and his M.A. in Child Development. After his undergraduate studies, Tommie was hired as a teacher by the same Jackson Public School District that had suspended and expelled him many times during elementary and secondary education. He went on to get a Doctorate Degree – an Executive Ph. D. from Jackson State University in 2020 where he majored in Urban Higher Education. Tommie now travels the world sharing his story to motivate and inspire others.



## Tentative Schedule

### Sunday, September 28, 2025

- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration & Information Center Open
- 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Exhibits Open
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Opening & Keynote Speaker – Russ Sabella
- 2:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Break with Exhibitors
- 2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. Deep Dive with Russ
- 3:50 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Coffee Break with Exhibitors
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Breakout Session 1 with Grade Level Meet-Ups
- 5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. President’s Reception

### Monday, September 29, 2025

- 7:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration & Information Center Open
- 7:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Exhibits Open
- 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast Available
- 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. President’s Welcome
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Morning Keynote – Tommie Mabry
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break with Exhibitors
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. Breakout Session 2
- 11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Break with Exhibitors
- 11:50 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. Breakout Session 3
- 12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. Lunch and Door Prizes  
– Last Chance to visit with Exhibitors!
- 1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Breakout Session 4

# REGISTRATION



**GROUP DISCOUNT! SAVE \$99**  
by registering groups of 5 or more!

Take 20% off groups of 5 or more. Fax or mail all your registration forms, along with form of payment, to receive the discount. Does not include Student or Retired rates.

## REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME (as it should appear on name badge) \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE - (REQUIRED PLEASE) \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENDEE EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if you plan to attend the President's Reception on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

	Professional Member*	Non-Member**	Student Member*	Retired Member*	TOTAL
<b>A. Full Conference - Attend Both Days (September 28-29)</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Early Register</b> (by Aug. 15, 2025)***	\$134	\$174	\$110	\$110	<b>(A) \$ _____</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular Registration</b> (after Aug. 15, 2025)	\$159	\$199	\$135	\$135	
<b>B. Monday Only (September 29)</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Early Register</b> (by Aug. 15, 2025)***	\$99	\$139	\$75	\$75	<b>(B) \$ _____</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular Registration</b> (after Aug. 15, 2025)	\$109	\$149	\$85	\$85	
<b>C. Annual NJSCA Membership Renewal*</b>					
Renew membership here, or visit <a href="http://www.njsca.org/membership">www.njsca.org/membership</a> .	\$40	Included in Registration**	\$30	\$15	<b>(C) \$ _____</b>
<b>Amount Due (A+B+C) \$ _____</b>					

\* Must be a NJSCA member. If membership expires before Sept. 29, 2025 add NJSCA Membership Renewal (C) to your total to be eligible for member rates.

\*\* If registering as a Non-Member, you will receive a complimentary NJSCA membership.

\*\*\* To qualify for the Early Registration Rate, your registration form AND payment (copy of your purchase order, check, or credit card) must be received or postmarked by the Early Registration cutoff date.

**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/nj-scac](http://www.ncyionline.org/nj-scac)

**EMAIL:** [registrations@ncyi.org](mailto: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.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If we are forced to cancel the NJSCA 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: There will be no refunds after August 28, 2025. All cancellations before August 28, 2025 will be refunded less a \$25 handling fee. The conference is not responsible for and cannot give refunds due to problems beyond its control such as weather or school closings. The sponsors of the conference receive registrant contact information.

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). Please allow ample time for processing.

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



## Make Hotel Reservations Early! Limited Availability!

### DoubleTree by Hilton Somerset Hotel and Conference Center

200 Atrium Drive Somerset, NJ 08873

All events of the Conference and guest accommodations will be located in the **DoubleTree by Hilton Somerset Hotel and Conference Center**.

Standard rooms at may be reserved at the **special conference rate (deadline 9/12/2025):**

**\$139 plus tax**

**Register Online:**

Go to [www.ncyionline.org/nj-scac](http://www.ncyionline.org/nj-scac).

Under the Accommodations section follow the link to the hotel's reservation system.

# Come Learn and Play.

In your down time, make sure to take time to relax and enjoy the surrounding area. Bridgewater Commons Mall and Bridgewater Promenade Shops have plenty of options for delicious food like Maggiano's, The Cheesecake Factory, and Fogo de Chão. Work up an appetite by walking the mall and shopping at stores like lululemon, Bloomingdale's, and White House/Black Market. If you would like to be entertained while you eat, try the AMC Dine-In movie theater where you can experience both dinner and a movie!



Don't feel like taking a drive? No worries, the DoubleTree Hotel has you covered with their Atrium Café that is open daily for Starbucks coffee, snacks, and pastries, and Seasonz Restaurant which serves familiar favorites for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



Visit the NJSCA Conference website ([www.ncyionline.org/nj-sca](http://www.ncyionline.org/nj-sca)) to see the things you can do around the beautiful Crowne Plaza.

**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!**