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# STRONGER TOGETHER



2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
November 13-15, 2025 • Rochester, NY

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Preconference sessions are an opportunity for more professional development. These sessions cover more in-depth information and allows an additional opportunity for discussion. Preconference sessions are not included in the main conference registration fee. These sessions run concurrently, once in the morning at 8:30 a.m. and once in the afternoon at 12:30 p.m. You may only choose one session per time slot. Please note that Russ Sabella will only be presenting at the 12:30 p.m. afternoon session.

November 13, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

## 1. How Do You View the World? A Discussion of Diversity and Equity

### Robert B. Jamison

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** The goal of this introspective session is for participants to think about diversity and equity through a more expansive lens. The presenter will review common terms used in schools, classrooms and organizations and how these terms relate to our behaviors. The session will also review things to consider when working with staff and students, and personal stories related to these topics will be shared. Participants will be asked to participate in individual, small and large group activities throughout the presentation.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Robert B. Jamison currently serves as a coordinator of school counseling services for a large suburban school division and has years of experience as a school counselor and school counseling department chair. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Virginia as well as his Master of Science in Education in School Counseling and his Education Specialist degrees from Old Dominion University. Mr. Jamison has also supported school counselors and educators as a member of the Board of Directors for a state school counselor association; and, he served on a state commission for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Robert is also the co-author of the book *15-Minute Focus: Diversity, Bias, and Privilege: Addressing Racial Inequities to Create Inclusive Learning Environments*.

*Robert will also be presenting a breakout session.*

November 13, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

## 2. Legal Literacy and Ethical Practice in the Complex World of School Counseling

### Carolyn Stone

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** 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 lives. Updates on these competing interests will be discussed through 10 primary court rulings that guide legal work of counselors in schools. Legal rulings 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 the developing laws regarding off-campus cyber speech and other uses of social media that are difficult to address without offending the first amendment. Through case study and the application of federal, state, and judge made laws, participants will actively dialogue in a lively forum. The goal is to facilitate participants' legal literacy and provide guiding principles to support best ethical practice.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Carolyn Stone, Ed.D., is a Professor Emeritus of Counselor Education at the University of North Florida (UNF). Dr. Stone is a Past President of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), and in 2010 was presented the ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award. Prior to coming to UNF, Dr. Stone spent 22 years with Jacksonville, Florida's Public Schools as an elementary and high school counselor, middle school teacher and Supervisor of Guidance Services. She supervised 225 school counselors. Dr. Stone was ASCA's Ethics Chair from 2002 to 2022 and chaired the last four revisions of the ethical standards.

November 13, 2025 | 12:30 p.m.

## 3. 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.

**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 a breakout session.*

November 13, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

## 4. Creating a Safe Space for All Bodies at School

### PRESENTERS FROM:

The Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders (WNYCCCED) & The Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Program at Golisano Children's Hospital

### FACILITATORS:

Michelle Morales, Parent Peer Mentor

Amy Realbuto PNP

Taylor Starr DO, MPH

Dayton Walsh, PhD

Heather Wensley, DNP

**Friday, November 14 | 8:15 a.m.**

Friday Morning Keynote Session Speaker

## **You Can Get In the Way!**

### **John W. Hodge**



**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Resilience has never been more important than it is right now in America’s schools and communities, many of which are still recovering from the risk-factors exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Today, and in the near future, schools must be purposeful in their efforts to foster resilience in students and staff. In the book, *You Can Get in the Way*, Dr. Hodge defines resilience in the following way: “Resilience refers to the ability to avoid, navigate, bounce back from, get through, get over, go around, or survive adversities of all kinds.” This session is the perfect way to inspire your school district, schools and/or community stakeholders to take action. In this session, Dr. Hodge provides an overview of the book along with very practical solutions to help buffer the risk-factors that traditionally hold kids back. It’s the perfect launch for a new school year, or a needed boost during the tough months that follow. After being shared with over 800 educators in a state-wide conference, this session has already been described as “life-changing” by many of those lucky enough to hear it.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Dr. John W. Hodge is president and co-founder of Urban Learning and Leadership Center (ULLC), an organization focused on student achievement and reduction of the achievement gap. He has served as a reading teacher, English teacher, AVID teacher, Assistant Principal and Associate Director of AVID Center Eastern Division. He served as Director of An Achievable Dream Academy, an inner city school that piloted many of the interventions used by Urban Learning and Leadership Center. An Achievable Dream Academy is a high performing, high poverty school that has received numerous national awards. Dr. Hodge is also the author of *You Can Get in the Way*. Prior to his career in education, Dr. Hodge distinguished himself in the service of our country with the 7th Infantry Division of the United States Army.

What sets Dr. John W. Hodge apart in the field of education is his well-documented ability to put research and theory into everyday practice in rural, urban and suburban schools. He has served as an inspirational speaker at national, regional, and statewide conferences across the United States. His presentations are often “the spark” for schools in their quest to meet and exceed state/federal accreditation standards and implement strategies for continuous improvement.

*John will also be presenting a breakout session.*

**Friday, November 15 | 8:00 a.m.**

Friday Morning Keynote Session Speaker

# **Embracing the Pivot: Inspiration and Navigating Change with Purpose**

**Ali Truwit**



**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** In this dynamic and thought-provoking session, Ali Truwit explores the power of personal reinvention, resilience, and leadership in the face of unwanted change. Drawing from her own journey of turning trauma to triumph, she will offer a candid and inspiring look at how to embrace transitions with courage and determination.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Ali is a 2023 graduate of Yale University, and a two-time silver medalist & American Record holder in the 400 meter freestyle and the 100 meter backstroke at the Paris Paralympic Games. Ali has shared her remarkable story of turning trauma into triumph on The Today Show, CBS Evening News, and The Kelly Clarkson Show, to name a few, and most recently as a keynote speaker at Lincoln Center. Ali continues to champion her work around overcoming hardship and disability access and education – with a documentary coming out this summer, a book she is writing to be published by St. Martin’s Press, and the charity, Stronger Than You Think, that she has founded to support the Paralympic Movement and to support young women and girls in need of prosthetics. Her story inspires and astounds.



## ~ TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ~

### Thursday, November 13, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Preconference Morning Session
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Preconference Afternoon Session
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Evening Event (open to all attendees)

### Friday, November 14, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Sponsor Presentation
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Welcome Conference Opening
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Keynote – John Hodge
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Workshop Session 1
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break and Exhibits
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Workshop Session 2
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Workshop Session 3
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Exhibitor Rally / Break / Raffle Winners
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Workshop 4
4:20 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.	Level Networking
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Awards Presentation and Reception
7:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own

### Saturday, November 15, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Sponsor Presentation
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Keynote – Ali Truwit
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Annual Membership Business Meeting
9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break and Exhibits
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Workshop Session 5
11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.	Workshop Session 6
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch and Closing Remarks
2:00 p.m.	Conference Closes

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# REGISTRATION

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 WORK PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:  GLUTEN FREE  VEGETARIAN  VEGAN  DAIRY-FREE  OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:  MOBILITY/NEEDS  LANGUAGE/INTERPRETER  OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

ELEMENTARY  MIDDLE SCHOOL  HIGH SCHOOL  ADMINISTRATOR  DIRECTOR  GRAD STUDENT  COUNSELOR EDUCATOR  
 ARE YOU AN ASCA MEMBER?  YES  NO  
 PREFERRED T-SHIRT SIZE (MEN'S SIZES)  SMALL  MED  LARGE  X LARGE  XX LARGE  XXX LARGE  
 ARE YOU A FIRST TIME CONFERENCE ATTENDEE?  YES  NO ARE YOU A MILITARY VETERAN?  YES  NO

	Professional/Affiliate Member*	Graduate Student Member*	Non-Member
<b>A. MAIN CONFERENCE</b>			
<b>ATTEND FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (NOV. 14-15)</b>			
Early Registration** (by Sept. 30)	\$280	\$195	\$330
Regular Registration (after Sept. 30)	\$295	\$210	\$345
<b>ATTEND FRIDAY ONLY (NOV. 14)</b>			
Regular Registration Only	\$225	\$115	\$275
<b>ATTEND SATURDAY ONLY (NOV. 15)</b>			
Regular Registration Only	\$190	\$95	\$240
<b>PRE-CONFERENCE (THURSDAY ONLY, NOV. 13) PICK ONLY ONE PER TIME SLOT</b>			
<b>B. MORNING SESSION, 8:30 A.M.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. How Do You View the World? (Jamison)	\$65	\$65	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Legal Literacy and Ethical Practice (Stone)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Creating a Safe Space for All Bodies at School			
<b>C. AFTERNOON SESSION, 12:30 P.M.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. How Do You View the World? (Jamison)	\$65	\$65	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Legal Literacy and Ethical Practice (Stone)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Navigating the Future (Sabella)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Creating a Safe Space for All Bodies at School			

**Become a member and SAVE!**  
 Visit [www.nyssca.org](http://www.nyssca.org).  
 To check NYSSCA membership, email [membership@nyssca.org](mailto:membership@nyssca.org)

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**Total (A+B+C)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Your NYSSCA membership must be good November 15, 2025 to qualify.  
 \*\* 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					✓

**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 NYSSCA 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 October 13, 2025. All cancellations before October 13, 2025 will be refunded less a \$25 handling fee. You may however substitute a colleague at no additional cost. The association is not responsible for and cannot give refunds due to problems beyond its control, such as weather and school closings. The sponsors of the conference receive registrant contact information.

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.ncyionline.org/nysscac](http://www.ncyionline.org/nysscac)  
**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.

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.

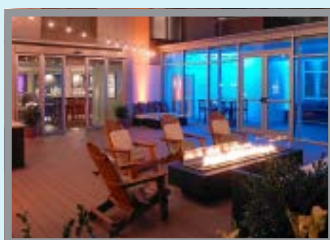
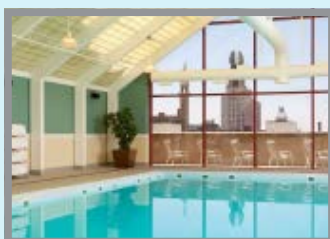


# Hyatt Regency Rochester

125 East Main Street, Rochester NY

## Make Hotel Reservations Early! Limited Availability!

All events of the conference will take place at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The Hyatt Regency Rochester is adjacent to the convention center. Standard rooms at the hotel may be reserved at a special conference rate of **\$147 plus tax**. This rate is valid through **October 22, 2025**, while rooms are available.



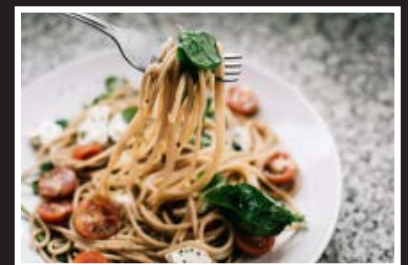
### To make hotel reservations:

**Book online:** Visit [www.ncyonline.com/nyssac](http://www.ncyonline.com/nyssac) and scroll to “Accommodations” to book a room.

**Call: (585) 546-1234.** Be sure to mention the “G-NYCA” group code..

## Come Learn and Play.

Come to the NYSSCA Conference in downtown Rochester, New York and enjoy breathtaking views, city parks, delicious restaurants, and great shopping, not to mention you will be right beside the Genesee River! Choose to stay in the hotel and check out the creative menu at The Street Craft Bar & Cocktails, or take a short walk for some Italian at Branca Midtown, barbeque at Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, or ramen and tasty bubble tea at Taichi Bubble Tea, Ramen and Poke Bowl. You will have plenty to do while staying in the heart of Rochester, so you can learn and play!!



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!