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TENNESSEE SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND  
ADMINISTRATOR LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

# SPARKING CHANGE IGNITING PASSION



co-hosted by

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2025 • EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER • MURFREESBORO, TN



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**Sunday, September 21, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

The Pre-Institute sessions are included in your registration. They run concurrently. You may only attend one.

**Choose one of the following!**

## 1. Connecting the Dots: A Deep Dive into K-12 Threat Assessment

### ***Makenzie Perkins***

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Curious if your school or district is prepared to prevent and manage potential acts of targeted violence? Wondering how different professionals in a school should be utilized to build a functioning multidisciplinary threat assessment team? Look no further! Using a variety of case studies and tabletop exercises, participants will leave with a better understanding of targeted violence, take an in-depth look at the threat assessment process, and learn how to implement a variety of interventions to effectively enhance school safety. This training workshop is designed to last 3-5 hours and can be used as a starter course or modified as a training refresher for school professionals with an already established threat assessment team.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Makenzie Perkins, MS, currently serves as the Counseling Specialist for Collierville Schools (TN). In this role she is responsible for coordinating and supervising school counseling, threat assessment, health facility transitions, and crisis response across the district. Previously she served as the Prevention Counselor at Collierville High School, where she helped students and staff navigate mental health concerns and crises at the largest high school in the state.

Makenzie is a National Certified Counselor and earned her Master of Science degree and Clinical Mental Health Specialist degree from the University of Memphis. She is also the author of *30-Minute Groups: Grief*. Makenzie is passionate about training professionals in the areas of threat assessment and management, suicidality, school safety, loss and grief, and understanding the everchanging mental health needs of today's youth.

*Makenzie will also be presenting two breakout sessions.*



## 2. Empowering Educators: Unlocking the Keys to De-escalation and Self-Regulation in the Classroom

### ***Elishia Basner***

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** When students' emotions are dysregulated, they can struggle to learn and distract those around them from learning. In this workshop, participants will uncover why students lose control and learn twelve scientifically-backed coping strategies that can be instantly implemented. Upon returning to your school, you'll be equipped with tangible skills to foster awareness, self-reflection, and connection with students.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Elishia is a former school counselor with a decade of experience aiding children and adolescents in navigating life challenges such as grief, loss, divorce, emotional regulation issues, and transitions. Elishia is passionate about helping schools become more resilient-centered and helping school counselors create comprehensive programs that align with the ASCA National Model. 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. She is also the author of the small group curriculum *30-Minute Groups: Life Skills*.

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.

*Elishia will also be presenting two breakout sessions.*



### 3. Practical and Proactive Behavior Interventions

#### Shawna Griffin

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** This session will equip you with effective and practical behavior interventions, strategies, and techniques that work! Topics include: 16 Proactive Strategies, understanding why misbehavior happens and strategies to de-escalate in tense moments.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Shawna Griffin began her career in education in 2003. Since her start as a classroom teacher, she has held positions as a PBIS District Director and District Behavior Interventionist. Shawna believes that a team approach is vital in creating the best educational environment for all learners. School staff, students, and caregivers who work together to create and routinely monitor plans they've created help students succeed. Shawna blends her teaching experiences with the latest research to share practical tools and strategies with educators and administrators to meet the needs of all students. Her credentials include Ed.S. in Special Education Leadership, Licensed Restorative Practices Trainer through the International Institute of Restorative Practices and Certified Trauma & Resilience Practitioner for Education through STARR Commonwealth.

*Shawna will also be presenting two breakout sessions.*



### 4. School Counselors Navigating Legal and Ethical Dilemmas in 21st Century Learning Environments

#### Franciene Sabens

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** School counselors encounter legal and ethical dilemmas in 21st century learning environments almost every day. The ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors provides an opportunity to have difficult conversations regarding ethical dilemmas, while also providing direction for navigating the legal and ethical dilemmas encountered through the profession. Participants will develop an ethical decision-making framework for analyzing and resolving ethical and legal dilemmas through the application of the ASCA ethical standards, case and statutory law, and the most recent research in counseling. Through the discussion of the purpose of ethical standards, professional responsibilities, ethical concerns for practice, and current research and case law, participants will be given the opportunity to increase their understanding regarding the complexities of respecting a minors' right to confidentiality, sole possession notes, caregiver rights, duty to warn, implementing suicidal ideation response efforts, AI/Chat GPT, and personal conduct.

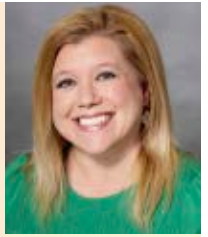
**SPEAKER BIO:** Franciene Sabens, M.S. Ed., LPC, NCC, is a litigation paralegal turned school counselor with nearly two decades of experience. Franciene serves as a board member for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and is a member of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Ethics Committee, and the National Council for the Advancement of Educator Ethics (a special NASDTEC Committee). In 2014 Franciene was named Illinois high school counselor of the year and honored by ASCA in 2016 at the White House as the Illinois state representative for the School Counselor of the Year ceremony. She contributed to the current Developmental Counseling Model for Illinois Schools, co-edited the second edition of the School Career Development Advisor Curriculum for the National Career Development Association, and is a frequent ASCA presenter and publication contributor. Franciene is passionate about enhancing the counseling profession by helping school counselors implement ethically aligned comprehensive programs that maintain the highest standards of integrity, leadership and professionalism while supporting students as they strive to reach their greatest potential.

*Franciene will also be presenting two breakout sessions.*



## 5. The Greatest Show on Earth: Counseling All Three Domains within MTSS

### ***Heather Bushelman***



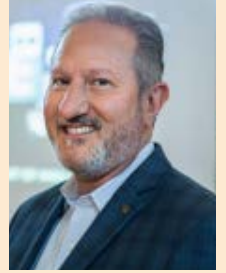
**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Comprehensive school counseling is a true show every day for school counselors. How do we balance all three domains (SEL, academic, and CCR) while also ensuring students receive MTSS for tiers 1, 2 and 3? This session will show how to become the ringmaster of your counseling program by interweaving and balancing all three domains for direct services including large and small group, and individual counseling. Indirect service options will also be modeled on how school counselors can advocate for their students within each domain. The ASCA documents will be referenced to help school counselors at all levels (K-12) to proactively plan and be data-driven for their MTSS for tiers 1, 2 and 3 as part of their larger school and districtwide plan. All evidence-based strategies and tools will be easy to implement as school counselors return to their settings, so bring your popcorn to enjoy how to effectively implement the greatest show on earth!

**SPEAKER BIO:** Heather has been in education for 22 years, with sixteen of that time spent as a school counselor. Her current role is serving as the District MTSS Coordinator for the third largest district in Kentucky, Boone County Schools. She has previously served as the Kentucky Department of Education's Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling also. As the 2024 Past-President of the Kentucky School Counselor Association, she advocates for school counseling around the state and nation. She was also honored to have been named the 2022 Kentucky School Counselor of the Year. Heather has presented nationally for conferences in Georgia, Nevada, Florida, California, Tennessee, Missouri, and Texas on topics including building MTSS at the school and district level, SEL Implementation within MTSS, Trauma-informed practices, building a comprehensive school counseling program, and college and career readiness.

***Heather will also be presenting two breakout sessions.***

September 22, 2025 | 8:30 a.m.

## Navigating the Future: Exploring AI in School Counseling *Dr. Russ Sabella*



**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Join us 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 two breakout sessions.*



September 23, 2025 | 11:15 a.m.

## A Strength-Based Approach to Supporting Youth Mental Health

**Byron McClure**



**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** The rising mental health challenges among our youth demand immediate, pragmatic measures to enhance their emotional and psychological well-being. This high-energy keynote session will address the critical importance of integrating mental health programs within schools, offering concrete, strength-based strategies. Participants will leave the session energized, inspired, and equipped with a clear, actionable plan to support and enhance the mental well-being of students in their schools.

A case will be made to move away from deficit-based practices and towards strength-based practices rooted in science. By focusing on what's strong instead of what's wrong, we can better support our students' social and emotional development. This shift offers a fresh lens through which to view the youth's unmet needs—not as unsolvable problems but as opportunities for actionable change.

By the end of the session, participants will be energized, inspired, and able to walk away with a clear understanding of the importance of these practices and a roadmap for bringing them into their school communities.

Session attendees will:

- Identify how deficit thinking shows up in their practice (thoughts, beliefs, and actions).
- Describe the key elements of strength-based practices and explain how they can be implemented in a school setting to promote students' social and emotional development.
- Identify at least one explicit strength-based practice discussed and start incorporating it into their educational approaches to enhance the social and emotional development of students

**SPEAKER BIO:** Dr. Byron McClure is a product of Prince George's County, Maryland, a proud HBCU graduate of Hampton University, and a Black male National Certified School Psychologist. His mission has always been to improve outcomes for youth, especially those who have been historically marginalized.

After earning his doctorate in school psychology from IUP, he returned to D.C., where he led a school turnaround initiative for Anacostia High School, culminating in winning the 2020 Whole Child Award. His work has garnered recognition, including the Black SEL Summit Award 2022 for his contributions to Black youth's development and the NASP President's Certificate of Achievement in 2019. In 2018, he was honored with the CounterStories Award by the non-profit Men Can Stop Rape.

Dr. McClure has been featured in NPR, Insider, and the APA Monitor, to name a few. He founded Lessons For SEL, a culturally responsive SEL curriculum, which was acquired by 7 Mindsets, where he served as the Director of Innovation. His book, *Hacking Deficit Thinking*, has consistently appeared in Amazon's top 20 categories in Crisis Management Counseling and Inclusive Education Methods.

Recognizing school psychologists' national challenges, he developed School Psych AI, a platform designed to alleviate the burden of writing lengthy psychological evaluations by automating the process and their workload, allowing more focus on student well-being.

***Byron will also be presenting a breakout session.***

## Sunday, September 21, 2025

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Pre-Institute Sessions

## Monday, September 22, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Opening Kickoff and Keynote Session – Russ Sabella
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Networking Luncheon
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions

## Tuesday, September 23, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Exhibits Open
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	General Session & Lunch, Keynote Speaker – Byron McClure

# INSTITUTE REGISTRATION

Tennessee School Counselor  
and Administrator Leadership Institute

Save on your Institute registration by becoming a member of the TSCA!

Visit [www.tennesseeschoolcounselor.org](http://www.tennesseeschoolcounselor.org) to join!

## REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME (first and last for name badge) \_\_\_\_\_ TSCA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

INSTITUTE REGISTRATION RATE  
(September 21-23, 2025)

TSCA MEMBER\*  
\$145

TSCA MEMBER\* +  
\$50 RESOURCE VOUCHER\*\*  
\$195

NON-MEMBER  
\$235

\* You must have a TSCA Membership good through September 23, 2025 to receive the Member Price. Please enter Member # above.  
To take advantage of the discounted Member prices, renew your membership if needed, through the TSCA web page.

\*\* Includes a \$50 voucher to redeem on-site at the conference bookstore.

The Pre-Institute sessions are included in your registration. They run concurrently.  
Please check the one you'd like to attend below. You may only attend one.

- ☐ 1. Connecting the Dots: A Deep Dive into K-12 Threat Assessment – Makenzie Perkins  
☐ 2. Empowering Educators – Elishia Basner  
☐ 3. Practical and Proactive Behavior Interventions – Shawna Griffin  
☐ 4. School Counselors Navigating Legal and Ethical Dilemmas – Franciene Sabens  
☐ 5. The Greatest Show on Earth – Heather Bushelman

**Total Due**

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

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/tnscali](http://www.ncyionline.org/tnscali)

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.  
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☐ **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 Institute because of a "force majeure" event, such as a government restriction on large gatherings that cover the intended size of the Institute, then we will issue full refunds of the registrations. Otherwise, our normal cancellation policy will be upheld: There will be no refunds after August 21, 2025. All cancellations before August 21, 2025 will be refunded less a \$25 handling fee. The Institute 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.

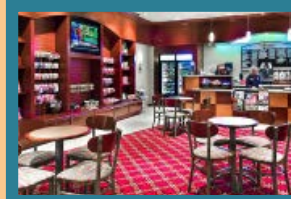
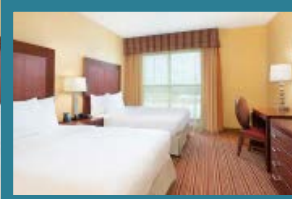
On social distancing and other health and safety measures, the regulations/guidelines that apply to hotels and conference centers may change. The Institute will conform to all necessary regulations/guidelines that are in place as of the date of the Institute.

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.



## ACCOMMODATIONS

Tennessee School Counselor  
and Administrator Leadership Institute



**Limited Availability! Reserve your room today!**

### **Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center** 1200 Conference Center Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129

The Embassy Suites (Institute's host hotel) has a conference rate of **\$180 per night, plus tax**, which remains valid for reservations made on or before **August 30, 2025**. The conference rate includes a full, cook-to-order breakfast and an evening Manager's Reception!

#### **TO RESERVE A ROOM AT THE EMBASSY SUITES**

**CALL:** 1-800-EMBASSY (1-800-362-2779)

**ONLINE:** Go to [www.ncyionline.org/tnscale](http://www.ncyionline.org/tnscale) and follow the hotel link in the "Accommodations" section directly to the Embassy Suites' reservation system for the Institute.

**Please Note:** If you want to phone in your reservation to the **Embassy Suites**, please be sure to mention the **928** Group Code.

*Please Note: A refundable, one-night deposit will be required when making a reservation.*

## OVERFLOW HOTEL

**If the Embassy Suites hotel is full, we have opened room blocks at hotels within easy walking distance (across the parking lot) from the Embassy Suites!**



### **The Hilton Garden Inn**

1335 Conference Center Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Within easy walking distance (across the parking lot) from the Embassy Suites is the Hilton Garden Inn. Standard rooms at the hotel may be reserved at a special conference rate of **\$179 plus tax**, while rooms are available. This includes two complimentary breakfast buffet tickets per room. This rate is valid through **September 8, 2025**.

**TO RESERVE A ROOM:** Go to [www.ncyionline.org/tnscale](http://www.ncyionline.org/tnscale) and follow the hotel link in the "Accommodations" section directly to the Hilton Garden Inn's reservation system for the Institute. You can also book a room by calling (615) 225-2345. Be sure to mention the "SCL125" group code.

# Come Learn and Play!

In the evening, make sure you take time to relax and enjoy the surrounding area. Go to [www.ncyionline.org/tnscali](http://www.ncyionline.org/tnscali) to see the things to do around the beautiful Embassy Suites.

***Visit The Avenue, just minutes away and in walking distance from the Embassy Suites!***

- You can sit back and relax at the many restaurants at The Avenue, such as Romano's Macaroni Grill, Longhorn Steakhouse and Chili's Bar and Grill, along with others.
- At The Avenue enjoy shopping at the Ann Taylor Loft, White House / Black Market, Off Broadway Shoes, Forever 21, 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!**