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PALMETTO STATE
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 22-24, 2026

WESTIN HILTON HEAD RESORT
AND SPA, HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC



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Friday, January 23 | 8:00 a.m.

Building Proactive Systems to Break the Cycle of Reactivity

Terri Tchorzynski

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Over the last few years it has become evident that the plates of school counselors across the nation have become increasingly full of challenges, such as staff shortages, increased mental health needs for adults and students, increased rates of truancy, decreased rates of academic achievement, and a noticeable lack of social skills and conflict resolution across all developmental stages. This list could go on!

Redesigning our systems to be more proactive is an essential part of breaking the cycle of reactivity that oftentimes leads to burnout and frustrations. Discover frameworks, strategies, and best practices that will leave you feeling empowered to embrace new concepts that may be unfamiliar and uncomfortable at first, but might be exactly the new approach that is needed to transform our student supports to be more comprehensive across all service providers, preventative in practice, and inclusive of ALL students..

SPEAKER BIO: As Senior Director of Professional Learning for Hatching Results, Terri Tchorzynski leads a team of nationally recognized trainers and consultants who work with school counselors and administrators across the country to develop comprehensive, data-informed programs that are centered on supporting the needs of ALL students. Prior to Terri's current role with Hatching Results, she served 18 years in education as both a high school English teacher and school counselor. As a practicing school counselor, she led her department in becoming one of the first schools in the state of Michigan to become a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) and was named by the American School Counselor Association as the 2017 National School Counselor of the Year. As Terri travels the country to support the development of comprehensive school counseling programs, she continues to fuel her passions for both career development and the state of school counseling in Michigan as most recently having served as an Advisory Panel Member for the US Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education, as well as the President of the Michigan School Counselor Association.

Terri will also be presenting a breakout session.



Visit 40+ Exhibitors at the Conference!



Thursday, January 22, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Pre-Conference Learning Sessions include 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. Sessions are at a minimal 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. 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.



2. 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.



3. School-Based Crisis Response

Michelle Sircy



ABOUT THIS SESSION: Unfortunately, the likelihood of school leaders encountering a crisis event during their tenure is high. Being well-prepared for crisis response equips school staff with the ability to think quickly and critically when such situations arise. In this session, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively respond to crises within a school setting. School counselors, administrators, and educators will explore best practices and strategies to ensure the safety and mental well-being of students and staff during times of crisis.

This session is not a replacement for crisis prevention but provides attendees with skills and a knowledge base on how to respond once a crisis has occurred. The session will include interactive activities, case studies, and practical tools that participants can immediately apply to their school environments.

Attendees will learn how to:

- Develop a crisis response plan tailored to their school's unique population.
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities for school crisis team members to ensure coordinated and efficient responses.
- Communicate effectively with students, staff, and parents during and after a crisis.
- Foster a supportive and resilient school climate that can withstand and recover from crises.

SPEAKER BIO: Dr. Michelle Sircy has served in public education for over 20 years. Her service includes work as a special education teacher, high school counselor, specialist for school counseling services for Jefferson County/Louisville, KY Public Schools, where she led over 300 school counselors, and she currently serves as the Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling at the Kentucky Department of Education. Dr. Sircy is also an adjunct professor at Spalding University where she teaches courses in the school counselor preparation program.

While at JCPS, she co-led the district crisis team, where she developed over 400 personalized crisis plans for schools throughout the last 10 years. Dr. Sircy also led suicide prevention efforts for 70,000 students in grades 2nd-12th, and with over 15,000 adults. Dr. Sircy is the past president of the Kentucky Counseling Association, Kentucky high school counselor of the year, and the Kentucky school counselor advocate of the year. She has led numerous national trainings on the school counselor's role in equity work, school counseling data, how to be an ally, new school counselor academies, and comprehensive systems of support for students.

Michelle Sircy is also the author of *15-Minute Focus: School-Based Crisis Response*, a book that provides clear, actionable steps to navigate the complex landscape of school crisis response. Her passion resides in improving mental health services, leading school counselor work in addressing racial equity at the school level, data driven school counseling and empowering school based mental health teams to develop, plan and support students through various crisis.

Michelle will also be presenting two breakout sessions.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



~ TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ~

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Registration Open
1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Learning Sessions
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	PSSCA Board Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Registration Open
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Silent Auction
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Graduate Student Orientation
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Opening Session Welcome, Roll Call, Awards, and Keynote Speaker – Terri Tchorzynski
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Breakout (Program) Session One
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Break – Boxed Lunches (Share Level Sessions)
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Breakout (Program) Session Two
1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Graduate Student Poster Sessions
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Breakout (Program) Session Three
3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Breakout (Program) Session Four
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Members Mingle and Silent Auction Winners

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.	Fun Run/Walk (weather permitting)
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Registration Open
7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Exhibits Open
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Breakout (Program) Session Five
9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	Break – Visit Exhibitors
9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Breakout (Program) Session Six
10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Break – Final Chance to Visit Exhibitors
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Breakout (Program) Session Seven
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Business Meeting and Door Prizes

REGISTRATION



You can save on your conference registration by becoming a member of the PSSCA!

Before registering for the conference, please visit the PSSCA web page and become a member or renew your annual membership to save.

Go to www.psschoolcounselor.org and click the "JOIN NOW" link.

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 (_____) _____

DO YOU WANT A FREE CONFERENCE T-SHIRT? ☐ NO ☐ YES T-SHIRT SIZE: ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐ XXXL

Professional/Affiliate
Member*

Non-Member

Graduate Student*/
Retiree*

A. MAIN Conference – Attend both days (Jan. 23-24)

☐ **Early Register**** (by Nov. 23, 2025)

\$155

\$205

\$85

☐ **Regular Registration** (after Nov. 23, 2025)

\$175

\$225

\$105

B. Pre-Conference Learning Sessions (Jan. 22)

Early Register** (by Nov. 23, 2025)

\$50

\$90

Regular Registration (after Nov. 23, 2025)

\$65

\$100

Please check the box for the ONE session you plan to attend.

☐ **1. Practical and Proactive Behavior Interventions** – Shawna Griffin

☐ **2. School Counselors Navigating Legal and Ethical Dilemmas** – Franciene Sabens

☐ **3. School-Based Crisis Response** – Michelle Sircy

* Your membership must be good through Jan. 24, 2026 to be eligible for Member rates.

** 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.

MAIN Conference Attendance Total (A) \$ _____

Pre-Conference Total (B) \$ _____

Total Due (A + B) \$ _____

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/psscac

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.

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.

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 PSSCA 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 December 22, 2025. All cancellations before December 22, 2025 will be refunded less a \$25 handling fee. 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 PSSCA Conference will conform to all necessary regulations/guidelines that are in place as of the date of the conference.



The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa

Two Grasslawn Avenue
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928



The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa, the Conference's host hotel, has a **conference rate of \$147 a night for single occupancy and \$171 a night for double occupancy, plus tax (resort fee is waived)**. This rate is good on reservations made by **January 5, 2026**. Rooms are limited, and may fill up before the cutoff date. The conference rate includes breakfast vouchers to use for a full hot breakfast each morning. The resort includes a variety of complimentary amenities and benefits, including complimentary Wi-Fi in the hotel rooms.

REGISTER ONLINE: Go to www.ncyionline.org/psscac and scroll to the "Accommodations" section. Click on "Book a Room."

Reservations can be canceled, without penalty, up to five days prior to arrival date; cancellations made inside of the five day window will incur a one night fee.

Inquiries can be sent to Raquel.D.Wood@westin.com.

Come Learn and Play!

In the evening, make sure you take time to relax and enjoy the surrounding area. There is so much to do on Hilton Head Island.

Visit the Tanger Outlets for shopping at places like Ann Taylor, Coach, LOFT Outlet, or Pandora.

In the evening, make sure you take time to relax and enjoy the surrounding area. There is so much to do on Hilton Head Island. Visit the Tanger Outlets for shopping at places like Ann Taylor, Coach, LOFT Outlet, or Pandora. Or you can visit Shelter Cover Harbor & Marina for shopping and dining on the water. Eat at the Hilton Head Social Bakery, Bistro 17, or ELA'S On The Water for award-winner views and fresh seafood. Shelter Cove also has shopping at places like Neptune's Niche for gifts and souvenirs, and Nash Gallery for handcrafted jewelry, blown glass, ceramics, and furniture. Hilton Head Island has a variety of options for your entertainment.



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!