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Embracing the Journey

Leading Through Change and Transition

OCTOBER 5-6, 2026

HILTON EAST BRUNSWICK • EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ

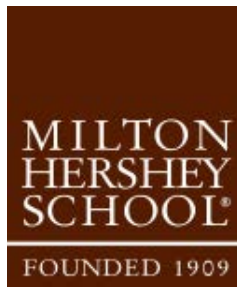


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Opening Keynote • October 5, 2026

Embracing the Journey: Kindness as the Counselor's Compass

Houston Kraft

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Empathy has dropped 40% in the average college-aged student since the year 2000. 73% of Generation Z says they sometimes or always feel alone. The journey ahead — for students and the adults who guide them — runs through a world that is divisive, anxious, and disconnected. The bad news? We are unskilled at kindness. The good news? It can be taught, modeled, and practiced. Drawing from his work in over 12,000 schools globally as co-founder of CharacterStrong, Houston Kraft will share why kindness must be redefined for this generation, and the tactical approach school counselors can take to guide the long, uneven journey toward a more compassionate world.

SPEAKER BIO: Houston Kraft has spoken at over 700 events internationally. In 2016, he co-founded CharacterStrong which currently serves 10,000 schools across 50 states and 45 countries helping to support the teaching of kindness in education. In 2019, his face was featured on Lays BBQ chip bags as someone who helps “spread smiles.” In 2020, his first book *Deep Kindness: A Revolutionary Guide for the Way We Think, Talk, and Act in Kindness* was published by Simon & Schuster. In 2023, the companion guide *Be Kind: A 52-Week Journal for Practicing Kindness* was published. He has been featured on Good Morning America, CNN, Hallmark, HuffPost, and more as an expert on developing a more empathetic, kind world. His mom is his hero and her best life lesson is to “hug like you mean it.”

Houston will also be presenting one breakout session.



Morning Keynote • October 6, 2026

The Power of a Ripple Effect for ALL Students

Terri Tchorzynski

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Ripple effects are created by small disruptions that have the power and potential to continue to spread far beyond the starting point. In education, we are given daily opportunities to begin ripple effects with our students that have the power and potential to transcend the walls of our schools and positively impact their life trajectory. These are opportunities that we should not take lightly and should be done with thoughtfulness and intentionality.

Discover proactive strategies that are designed to reimagine systems and processes that are centered on student outcomes. From the integration of student mental health and well-being to academic achievement, to transformational teaming that is centered on data-informed decisions, to the development of a multi-tiered system of support that is designed to meet the needs of ALL students. Each of these strategies will encourage us to think differently about how we can best support the students we serve and is centered around this guiding question – “what ‘ripple effects’ are you hoping to start with your students and how do you hope they spread far beyond the walls of our schools?”

SPEAKER BIO: Terri is a nationally recognized school counselor, educator, and passionate advocate for comprehensive, data-informed programs that emphasize intentional, proactive systems. With nearly 25 years of diverse experience that encompasses classroom instruction, school counseling, professional coaching/consultation, and leadership at both state and national levels, she has earned a reputation as a go-to speaker for impactful, practitioner-focused strategies that drive immediate implementation and results.

As a former National School Counselor of the Year and a pioneer in leading the transformation of her department from a reactive program into one of Michigan's first schools recognized as an ASCA Model Program (RAMP), Terri possesses a wealth of expertise and experience. Her approach is rooted in repositioning current realities and challenges to develop solution-focused strategies that deliver immediate results.

Guided by her passion for fostering educational excellence, Terri thrives on facilitating professional learning by equipping school counselors and educators with practical strategies, best practices, and resources to positively impact student outcomes. She is dedicated to redesigning systems to be more equitable and inclusive, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the entire school community. She is committed to developing accountability frameworks that place students at the heart of desired outcomes.

Terri will also be presenting one breakout session.



Tentative Schedule

Monday, October 5, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Opening Remarks
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Keynote Speaker – Houston Kraft
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Session 1
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Session 2
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch, Visit with Exhibitors, Prizes
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Session 3
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Session 4
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Reception

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Keynote Speaker – Terri Tchorzynski
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Session 5
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Session 6
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Prizes
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Session 7
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Survey and PD Certificates

All inclusive registrations must be delivered to NCYI before September 8th, 2026. Online registrations are available until September 30th, 2026.

REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME (as it should appear on name badge) _____

ATTENDEE EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION) _____

ARE YOU A NJSCA MEMBER? MEMBER NON-MEMBER

JOB TITLE - (REQUIRED PLEASE) _____

ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

WORK ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CELL () _____ WORK PHONE () _____

Check this box if you plan to attend the President's Reception on Monday, October 5, 2026.

	Professional Member*	Professional Non-Member**	Student	Retired	TOTAL
A. All Inclusive Registration – Includes both days (Oct. 5-6) at the conference and a hotel room for the night of Oct 5.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Register (by July 31, 2026)***	\$275	\$335	\$225	\$225	(A) \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration (after July 31, 2026)	\$299	\$359	\$250	\$250	
B. Full 2 Day Conference – Includes both days (Oct. 5-6). Does not include hotel or early registration rates.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration	\$199	\$275	\$149	\$149	(B) \$ _____
C. One Day of Professional Learning – Choose either Monday or Tuesday.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday (October 5, 2026)	\$149	\$225	\$100	\$100	(C) \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday (October 6, 2026)	\$149	\$225	\$100	\$100	
D. Annual NJSCA Membership					
Renew membership here, or visit www.njsca.org/membership .	\$60	Included in Registration**	\$30	\$30	(D) \$ _____

Amount Due (A+B+C+D) \$ _____

* Must be a NJSCA member. If membership expires before October 6, 2026 add NJSCA Membership Renewal (D) to your total to be eligible for member rates.

** If registering as a Non-Member, you will receive a complimentary NJSCA membership. You may also register as a professional member and add membership to your total to get discounted registration 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.

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

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.

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 September 5, 2026. All cancellations before September 5, 2026 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!

Hilton East Brunswick

3 Tower Center Blvd
East Brunswick, NJ 08816



All events of the Conference and guest accommodations will be located in the **Hilton East Brunswick**. Standard rooms at may be reserved at the **special conference rate (deadline 9/18/2026):**

\$149 plus tax

Register Online:

Go to www.ncyionline.org/nj-scac.

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

Come Learn and Play!

In your downtime, be sure to relax and explore the surrounding area. Just a short drive away, you'll find a variety of great options. Head to The Shoppes at North Brunswick to enjoy delicious dining at spots like Sigrí Indian BBQ or Hummus Republic, then browse popular shops such as LOFT and Bath & Body Works. To round out the evening, catch a movie at AMC Brunswick Square 13 for a fun and easy night out.

For a more rejuvenating experience, consider visiting Island Spa & Sauna, a nearby Korean-style day spa offering saunas, relaxation rooms, and spa treatments for the perfect way to unwind.



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!