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TENNESSEE SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND  
ADMINISTRATOR LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

# PASSION, PURPOSE, POSITION!

co-hosted by



September 27-29, 2026

Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center • Murfreesboro, TN

## CORPORATE SPONSORS



## FOUNDATION SPONSORS

Hugh & Charlotte Maclellan Charitable Trust

**Sunday, September 27, 2026 | 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. Supporting Neurodivergent Students and their Families

#### **Paul Harris**

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** What is the schooling experience like for neurodivergent students? What might it feel like in a neuro-normative society to learn that your child is neurodivergent? How can we reduce or eliminate common barriers that neurodivergent students experience in school? What does it look like to incorporate student and family strengths into support efforts? Dr. Harris addresses these questions and more using personal narratives and professional insights to facilitate increased empathy, understanding, and self-efficacy of participants.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Dr. Paul C. Harris is scholar-practitioner committed to building a just world where all are seen, heard, and valued. He has 20+ years of experience as K-12 school counselor, teacher, administrator, and professor. He is currently an associate professor in the counseling and special education department at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the former president of the Virginia School Counselor Association and formerly served on the American School Counselor Association Board of Directors. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Health & Physical Education with a concentration in Sports Medicine and his Master's degree in School Counseling from the University of Virginia, and his Ph.D. in Counselor Education from the University of Maryland. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Union University.

*Paul will also be presenting two breakout sessions.*



### 2. The Playlist for Creating a Trauma-Informed School

#### **Elishia Basner**

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Do you wonder if your school is supportive of students who have experienced trauma? We understand that not all of our students have had the same experiences, and many may be struggling in the Survival Brain, unable to access the Learning Brain. That's why it's so important to create an environment that promotes the learning brain, regardless of past trauma. See how you can help build a trauma-informed school atmosphere that is safer, calmer, and more conducive to learning for all 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. The Vulnerability of Helping Professionals: How Life's Tragedies Shape & Refine Our Work

#### **Loren Dittmar**

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Supporting others can be deeply meaningful—and deeply exhausting—especially when personal hardships collide with professional demands. In this powerful session, Loren explores how vulnerability can fuel resilience, deepen connection, and renew your sense of purpose. Walk away with practical tools and a fresh perspective on how life's toughest moments can strengthen both your work and your well-being.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Once an at-risk youth, Loren Dittmar, PhD, is now a nationally recognized speaker and consultant specializing in school mental health, suicide prevention, and the well-being of the adults who serve youth. He partners with schools and organizations nationwide to expand mental health supports, strengthen staff resilience, and build cultures where people feel seen, supported, and empowered to live authentically.

With over 25 years of combined experience in clinical and educational settings, Loren brings a rare blend of frontline insight and scholarly depth. His background includes five years in the mental health field, 18 years as a school counselor, including service as a Director of School Counseling, and 13 years as an adjunct professor. He served as a Lead Professional Learning Specialist with Hatching Results, supporting districts in implementing data-driven, ASCA-aligned comprehensive school counseling programs. He was also the lead expert for the mental health section of the international resource [covid19k12counseling.org](https://covid19k12counseling.org). Loren has held various leadership roles within multiple state school counselor associations and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Palmetto State School Counselor Association.

Through courageous conversations and healthy vulnerability, Loren equips audiences to ignite purpose, inspire change, and transform the way they lead, live, and connect.

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



September 28, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.

## Unstoppable Selfcare: Harnessing Your Strength to Overcome Burnout and Compassion Fatigue

**Michael McGill**



**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Session Description: Coming Soon

**SPEAKER BIO:** Michael McGill, Jr. is a keynote speaker, award-winning and nationally board-certified (mental health) psychotherapist, life teacher, T.V personality, and best-selling author who's been featured on CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, COURT TV, FOX, and host of other networks. As a wellness advocate with a background in education, social psychology, and a post-graduate background in clinical mental health counseling (with honors) from Johns Hopkins University where he was both educated and trained, McGill works with leaders, businesses, schools, and community organizations on topics of wellness, self-improvement, human relationships, and ways to develop powerful human connections. With clients like Hanes Brands, Wells Fargo, Nikon, U.S. Army, Georgetown University, HCA Healthcare, and a host of government agencies, school districts, Fortune 200 companies, and many community organizations, Michael's talks are filled with principles of self-reflection, self-awareness, and self-growth. He also works with organizations on ways to enhance their climate & culture through fruitful relationship building; as a result, they are able to build community, create connection, and increase their impact on those whom they serve. Michael regularly appears on TV morning shows across the country where he discusses how we can live, love, and lead well! As a lifelong student of healthy relationships & human development, as well as an overcomer of deep tragedy and sorrow, Michael is an unrelenting optimist who believes that we can be great individually, but we can be unshakably extraordinary when we join and commune in healthy relationships with other people. He's ready to support you with tapping into the power within!

*Michael will also be presenting one breakout session.*

September 29, 2026 | 11:15 a.m.

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

***Terri Tchorzynski***



**ABOUT THIS SESSION:** Session Description: Coming Soon

**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.***

## Sunday, September 27, 2026

- 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 28, 2026

- 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 – Michael McGill
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break – Visit Exhibitors
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Breakout Session 1
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Networking Luncheon
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Breakout Session 2
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Break – Visit Exhibitors
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Session 3
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break – Visit Exhibitors
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Breakout Session 4

## Tuesday, September 29, 2026

- 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Registration and Information Center Open
- 7:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Exhibits Open
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakout Session 5
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Break – Visit Exhibitors
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Breakout Session 6
- 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break – Visit Exhibitors
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Breakout Session 7
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. General Session & Lunch, Keynote Speaker – Terri Tchorzynski

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

ATTENDEE EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION) \_\_\_\_\_ TSCA MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTE REGISTRATION RATE (September 27-29, 2026)	TSCA MEMBER* \$145	TSCA MEMBER* + \$50 RESOURCE VOUCHER** \$195	NON-MEMBER \$235	NON-MEMBER + \$50 RESOURCE VOUCHER** \$285
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\* You must have a TSCA Membership good through September 29, 2026 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. Supporting Neurodivergent Students and their Families—Paul Harris
- 2. The Playlist for Creating a Trauma-Informed School—Elishia Basner
- 3. The Vulnerability of School Counseling: How Life's Tragedies Shape and Refine Our Work—Loren Dittmar

**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.

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 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 27, 2026. All cancellations before August 27, 2026 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.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Tennessee School Counselor  
and Administrator Leadership Institute



### Limited Availability! Reserve your room today! Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Convention Center

1200 Conference Center Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129

The Embassy Suites (Institute's host hotel) has a conference rate of **\$185 per night, plus tax**, which remains valid for reservations made on or before **September 4, 2026**. 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 **91V** Group Code.

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

## Come Learn and Play!

In the evening, make sure you take time to relax and enjoy the surrounding area. 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 Cinnaholic, Longhorn Steakhouse, and Chili's Bar and Grill, along with others. Enjoy shopping at the Aerie, White House / Black Market, Off Broadway Shoes, American Eagle, 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!