

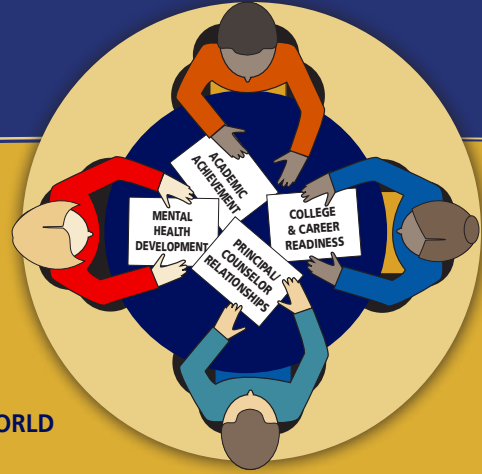
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SOUTHEAST
School Counselor and Administrator
Leadership Institute

Collaborating for Student Success!

February 21-22, 2027

RENAISSANCE ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD



Sponsored By



Sunday, February 21, 2027 | 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The workshops are included in your registration. They run concurrently. You may only attend one.

Choose one of the following!

1. Behavior Interventions That Work

Amie Dean

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Do you have a plan for what you will do when a student doesn't comply with your request the first time? Second time? How about the third time? Do you go home tired and exhausted from frustration? This presentation will guide you in developing a thorough, preventative plan for handling issues from low level distractions to serious/chronic behaviors. This is a practical, hands-on presentation filled with concrete steps you can use the next day to help students and yourself.

SPEAKER BIO: Amie Dean, M.ED., B.A. has worked in education since 1993. She has experience teaching at all levels, and has taught both special and general education. She was with Fulton County Schools (GA) for ten years, where she provided support to teachers and students as the Student Support/RTI Coordinator for her middle school for four of those years. Amie holds a Master's degree in Education, is Nationally Board Certified as an Exceptional Needs Specialist, and has trained with Dr. Rick DuFour, Dr. Kay Burke, Dr. Spencer Kagan, Dr. Ruby Payne, and many others.

Amie Dean was also certified as a trainer for The World of Difference Institute with the ADL and studied Restorative Circles which helped hone her practice in coaching students and educators with problem solving, communication, and peacekeeping skills. With decades of experience as an educator and a professional consultant, she now provides support to others through training, speaking, and writing. Amie is also the author of many books, including *Because You Believe in Me*, *Your Happy Heart*, *There's No Dream Too Tall*, *30-Minute Groups: Peaceful Conflict Resolution*, *30-Minute Groups: Social Drama and Friendship Skills*, and *15-Minute Focus: Behavior Interventions: Strategies for Educators, Counselors, and Parents* and accompanying Workbook.

*Amie will also be presenting a breakout session, **Motivating Challenging Students**.*



2. From Stuck to Ready: Motivational Interviewing for Conversations That Heal

Loren Dittmar

ABOUT THIS SESSION: When young people are in pain or struggling, caring adults naturally want to make things easier and solve the problem, yet real meaningful change begins when students feel understood and empowered. In this engaging session, Dr. Loren shares Motivational Interviewing strategies to support students who seem stuck or resistant. Learn how to reduce power struggles, build trust, and spark genuine motivation that moves young people toward true growth and healing.

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. 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 a breakout session, **Lean Into The Discomfort: Seeing Students Through a Trauma-Informed Lens**.*



3. 15-Minute Counseling Techniques that Work: What You Didn't Learn in Grad School

Allison Edwards

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Feel like you don't have enough time to do counseling? Participants will learn 15 counseling techniques that can be implemented in less than 15 minutes from when a student walks into your office. The program can be suited to elementary, middle, or high school counselors (or a combination of all) and participants will not only learn the strategies but will be doing them alongside Allison as she teaches how to implement them. Get out your Play-Doh! This hands-on, experiential program will revolutionize your counseling department and help kids leave feeling empowered.

SPEAKER BIO: Allison Edwards is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist, educational consultant, parent coach, creator and owner of All the Feels Company and author of numerous books including *Worry Says What?*, *Flooded: A Brain-Based Guide to Help Children Regulate Emotions*, and *15-Minute Counseling Techniques that Work*. Allison earned her graduate degree in Counseling from Vanderbilt University and has over 20 years experience working as a school teacher, school counselor, child/adolescent psychotherapist, Vanderbilt University professor and educational consultant to schools throughout the country.

*Allison will also be presenting a breakout session, **Helping Students with Trauma and Emotional Dysregulation**.*



4. 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 recent state legislation and court developments. Legal rulings will be highlighted in areas relevant to student service professionals such as academic advising, child abuse reporting, student privacy, parental rights, educational records, artificial intelligence, first amendment rights, qualified privilege, and boundary issues. The goal is to facilitate participants' legal literacy and provide guiding principles to support best practice.

SPEAKER BIO: Carolyn Stone, Ed.D., is a Professor Emerita of Counselor Education at the University of North Florida (UNF). Dr. Stone is a Past President of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. Dr. Stone was ASCA's Ethics Chair from 2002 to 2022 and chaired the last four revisions of the ethical standards. 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 for 225 school counselors.

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

*Carolyn will also be presenting a breakout session, **Boundary Crossings, Dual Relationships, and Boundary Violations**.*



September 22, 2027 | 11:30 a.m.

Be The One!

John Hodge



ABOUT THIS SESSION: The education of America's youth is a challenging prospect when one considers the many burdens faced by impoverished children and their families. Research indicates that poverty need not be a barrier to academic excellence. As co-author of the book *Standing in the Gap*, Dr. Hodge states, "Across the nation, schools are demonstrating that it can be done: That students can reach high standards, that all children can succeed, that the gap between white and minority students, poor and affluent, can be closed." More often than not, one caring adult can make all the difference in the world. This presentation will encourage all of us to BE THE ONE.

SPEAKER BIO: Dr. John W. Hodge has delivered more than 800 keynote and professional learning sessions across the United States, Canada, and South America, reaching a conservative estimate of over 1.5 million students. His work has helped secure more than \$22 million in federal grant funding in education and workforce development. Meetings and Conventions Magazine named him among the best speakers conference organizers have heard, in the same company as many of America's most well-known celebrity speakers.

Before he entered education, Dr. Hodge served with distinction in the 7th Infantry Division of the United States Army. That service instilled a discipline and leadership that still define his work today. He earned his Bachelor of Science from North Carolina A&T State University, graduating with honors, and his Master of Arts from Chapman University. He completed his Doctor of Education at Virginia Tech, where his research examined the factors that shape academic success for children facing economic hardship. That research became a key element of the SAME Framework, a school improvement model he co-developed that now shapes work in districts across the country.

Dr. Hodge has done the work himself, not just studied it. He has served in various capacities from the classroom to the district office. As Associate Director of AVID Center Eastern Division, he helped expand the program across 13 states. As Director of An Achievable Dream Academy, a high-performing school in an economically challenged community, he helped build a model that earned national recognition and proved what is possible in any zip code.

That experience led him to co-found Urban Learning and Leadership Center (ULLC), where he served as President and built an organization devoted to closing the achievement gap. Following a strategic merger between ULLC and An Achievable Dream, Dr. Hodge now serves as Chief Inspirational Officer of AADULLC, leading efforts that inform and inspire school districts nationwide.

Dr. Hodge is the author of the top-selling book *You Can Get in the Way: How You Can Be a Roadblock to Risk Factors*, which has guided thousands of educators in uniting the entire staff around student success. He recently published *Resilience By Design: Build Unshakable Students Through Intentional Practice*, a guide for schools that want to build a culture where resilience is the norm, not the exception. When Dr. Hodge takes the stage, audiences don't just hear a speech. They leave with a reason to believe in the success of all children, regardless of risk factors.

John will also be presenting a breakout session, *Resilience By Design*.

Sunday, February 21, 2027

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Extended Workshop Learning Sessions
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Evening Reception

Monday, February 22, 2027

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Opening Kickoff General Session
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Transition Break
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Breakout Session 1
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break with Exhibitors
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 2
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Keynote Luncheon with John Hodge
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Transition Break
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout Session 3
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Coffee Break with Exhibitors
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 4

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) _____

INSTITUTE REGISTRATION RATE (February 21-22, 2027)

- ☐ **1. Early Registration*** (by January 15, 2027) \$200
☐ **2. Regular Registration** (after January 15, 2027) \$225

* To qualify for the Early or Regular Registration rates, your registration form AND payment (copy of your purchase order, check, or credit card) must be received or postmarked by the Early or Regular Registration cutoff dates.

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

- ☐ **1. Behavior Interventions That Work** – Amie Dean
☐ **2. From Stuck to Ready** – Loren Dittmar
☐ **3. 15-Minute Counseling Techniques that Work** – Allison Edwards
☐ **4. Legal Literacy and Ethical Practice** – Carolyn Stone

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/sescali

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 _____

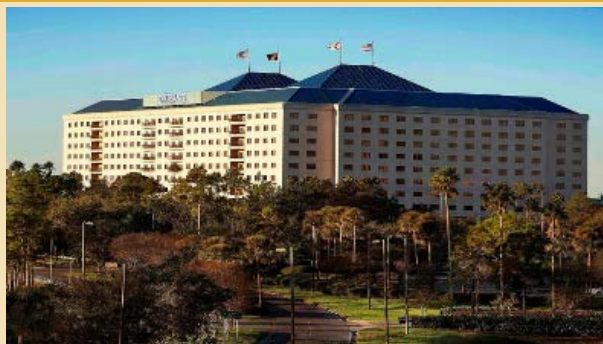
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____ EMAIL _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: If we are forced to cancel the 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 January 21, 2027. All cancellations before January 21, 2027 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.



Book Online: Go to www.ncyionline.org/sescali and scroll down to the "Accommodations" section. The "Book Online" link will take you directly to the hotel website.

By Phone: Call (800) 380-7917 and reference the Southwest School Counselor and Administrator Leadership Institute.

Limited Availability! Reserve your room today! Renaissance Orlando at Seaworld

6677 Sea Harbor Drive • Orlando, FL 32821

Join us at the institute venue, with comfortable onsite lodging designed to make your experience seamless!

Hotel Features:

- Multiple Restaurants
- Pool & fitness center
- On-site spa
- Shuttle to local attractions
- Institute sessions on site

Conference Rate: **\$249 per night**, plus applicable taxes and fees.

A Resort Fee of \$20 per night will also be applied. This fee covers amenities such as wi-fi throughout the property, access to the health club, etc.

Room upgrade options are available.

Rooms are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. We recommend making reservations early.

Room Block Cutoff: **February 1, 2027**. After this date, rooms and rates are subject to availability.



Relax and Recharge

After a full conference day, take some time to unwind! With dining, shopping, entertainment, and plenty of ways to relax just a short drive from the hotel, you'll have lots of options for an enjoyable evening in Orlando.



Dining & Coffee

- Casual and sit-down dining options
- Coffee shops and dessert spots
- Plenty of options for dinner with colleagues



Shopping

- Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets just a few miles away
- Designer and name-brand outlet stores
- Plenty of shopping options nearby



Local Attractions

- SeaWorld Orlando directly across from the hotel
- Disney Springs and Universal CityWalk within driving distance
- Even more to explore if you extend your stay



Self-Care & Services

- Salons, nail services, and massage options nearby
- Take a little time to recharge after a full day
- Convenient services throughout the surrounding area