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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

MICHIGAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 15 | 12:00 p.m.

Monday Keynote Session Speaker



Your Mental Health Matters: Living and Leading with Intention

Loren Dittmar

ABOUT THIS SESSION: A powerful, uplifting and interactive keynote that equips participants with practical tools to protect their own well-being, maintain balance, and stay grounded—so they can continue showing up with compassion, energy, and joy for the individuals and families they support.

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 be presenting one breakout session.

Monday, November 16 | 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday Keynote Session Speaker



World Changers: Cultivating Hope in Your School Community

Jessica Sinarski

ABOUT THIS SESSION: With everything on your plate, it's easy to lose sight of the inherent hope that education provides. We can get stuck in spirals of disruptive behavior, disconnection, and even despair. Luckily, that's not the end of the story. This uplifting keynote demonstrates a simple yet powerful approach to interrupting these negative cycles. Equal parts heartwarming and practical, you'll discover how small shifts can lead to big changes for you and the future world-changers in your school.

SPEAKER BIO: Jessica Sinarski, LPCMH is an award-winning author, dynamic speaker, and the founder of BraveBrains. She has spent her entire career working with children who have challenging behaviors and the caring adults in their lives. She is the author of the award-winning Riley the Brave series, Your Magic Backpack series, Your Amazing Brain, and Light Up the Learning Brain. She loves spicy food, Diet Coke, and her sweet, silly family…not in that order.

Jessica has worked with thousands of teachers, counselors, and administrators to get to the root of problematic student (and staff) behavior. She translates neuroscience into action steps through comprehensive professional development, diverse books, and practical tools for the classroom and beyond. Learn more at **BraveBrains.com**.

Jessica will be presenting one breakout session.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MICHIGAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE

~ *TENTATIVE SCHEDULE* ~

Sunday, November 15, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Welcome and Keynote Speaker – Loren Dittmar
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout Session 1
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 2
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors and Committee Meet and Greet
4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	Breakout Session 3
5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	President's Reception

Monday, November 16, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Session – Jessica Sinarski
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 4
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Celebration Luncheon
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Puppy Recharge with Humane Society of West Michigan
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 5
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Session 6
3:30 p.m.	Adjourn

REGISTRATION

MICHIGAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION **FALL CONFERENCE**

REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME (as it should appear on name badge) _____

ATTENDEE EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION) _____

JOB TITLE - (REQUIRED PLEASE) _____

ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

WORK ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CELL PHONE ( ) _____ WORK PHONE ( ) _____

	PROFESSIONALS & AFFILIATES		GRADUATES / RETIREES	
A. Full Conference (Nov 15-16, 2026)	**Members***	**Non-Member****	**Members***	**Non-Member****
❑ **Early Register***** (by Sept 15, 2026)	$190	$255	$145	$180
❑ **Regular Registration** (after Sept 15, 2026)	$210	$275	$145	$180
B. Annual MSCA Membership Renewal				
❑ **Membership**	$65	Included in Registration**	$35	Included in Registration**

* Membership must be good through November 16, 2026 to be eligible for member rates. If membership expires before November 16, add MSCA Membership Renewal (B) to your total.

** Registering as a Non-member includes 1 year membership to MSCA.

*** 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.

Amount 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/mi-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.

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 MSCA 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 October 15, 2026. All cancellations before October 15, 2026 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.

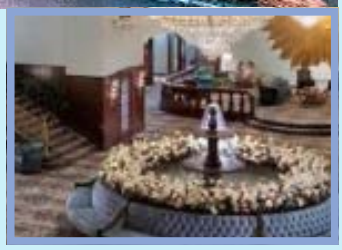
On social distancing and other health and safety measures, the regulations/guidelines that apply to hotels and conference centers may change. The MSCA Conference will conform to all necessary regulations/guidelines that are in place as of the date of the conference.

ACCOMMODATIONS

MICHIGAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE











Amway Grand Plaza

187 Monroe Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Make Hotel Reservations Early! Limited Availability!

All events of the conference will be located at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. Standard rooms at the hotel may be reserved at a **special conference rate of $179 plus taxes and fees**. This rate is **valid through November 11, 2026**.

Discounted Parking for Conference Attendees:

- $20 overnight self-parking
- $25 overnight valet parking

To make hotel reservations:

Call: (800) 253-3590. Please be sure to mention the conference discount code: **MSCA26**.

Book Online: Go to **www.ncyionline.org/mi-scac**. Under the "Accommodations" section, follow the instructions for the hotel's reservation system.

Relax and Recharge

After full conference days, it's nice to have easy options nearby to relax or enjoy a change of pace — and on-site at the Amway Grand Plaza or nearby you will find dining, shopping, and entertainment all in one convenient location.



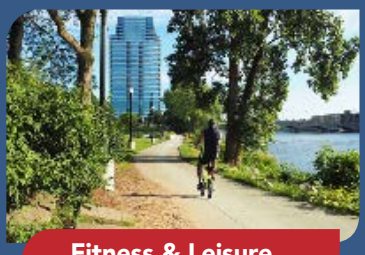
Dining & Coffee

- Casual and sit-down dining options
- Coffee shops and dessert spots
  Examples include: Ruth's Chris, Wolfgang Puck



Shopping

- Clothing, books, and gift shops
- National retailers and specialty stores
- Located on-site and nearby



Fitness & Leisure

- Enjoy nearby walking trails along the river
- Play a quick pickleball match on-site



Self-Care & Services

- Salons, nail services, and massage options
- High-end spa located on-site