PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION



December 2-4, 2026

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PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Pre-conference session is not included in the conference registration fee. Additional fee applies, see registration section.



Wednesday, December 2 | 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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 10 primary court rulings that guide legal work of counselors in schools. Legal rulings will be highlighted in areas such as sexually active students, bullying, academic advising, child abuse, educational records, sexual harassment, first amendment rights, and transgender youth.

Particular attention will be given to the developing laws regarding off-campus cyber speech and other uses of social media that are difficult to address without offending the first amendment. Through case study and the application of federal, state, and judge made laws, participants will actively dialogue in a lively forum. The goal is to facilitate participants' legal literacy and provide guiding principles to support best ethical practice.

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION

Thursday, December 3, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.



You Can Get In the Way!

John Hodge

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Resilience has never been more important than it is right now in America's schools and communities, many of which are still recovering from the risk-factors exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Today, and in the near future, schools must be purposeful in their efforts to foster resilience in students and staff. In the book, You Can Get in the Way, Dr. Hodge defines resilience in the following way: "Resilience refers to the ability to avoid, navigate, bounce back from, get through, get over, go around, or survive adversities of all kinds."

This session is the perfect way to inspire your school district, schools and/or community stakeholders to take action. In this session, Dr. Hodge provides an overview of the book along with very practical solutions to help buffer the risk-factors that traditionally hold kids back. It's the perfect launch for a new school year, or a needed boost during the tough months that follow. After being shared with over 800 educators in a state-wide conference, this session has already been described as "life-changing" by many of those lucky enough to hear it.

SPEAKER BIO: Dr. John W. Hodge stands out as one of America's most sought-after speakers in K-12 education. He is renowned for his ability to transform research into practical strategies for academic success. His journey in education began after serving with distinction in the 7th Infantry Division of the United States Army, laying the foundation for a career dedicated to empowering educators and students

After beginning his journey in education at North Carolina A&T, Dr. Hodge continued his training at Virginia Tech, where he conducted extensive research on student resilience and factors influencing the academic outcomes of children from struggling families. This academic foundation, combined with his hands-on experience in various educational roles, has shaped his unique approach to education reform.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hodge has worn many hats – from reading and English teacher to school administrator and education consultant. Dr. Hodge served as an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher, and later became Associate Director of AVID Center Eastern Division where he helped expand the program to 13 states. His tenure as Director of An Achievable Dream Academy, a high-performing school in an economically challenged area, provided him with invaluable insights into effective educational interventions, particularly for schools serving impoverished children. This experience led him to co-found the Urban Learning and Leadership Center (ULLC), an organization dedicated to student achievement and reducing the achievement gap.

Today, Dr. Hodge serves as the Chief Inspirational Officer of AADULLC, following a strategic merger between ULLC and An Achievable Dream. This union has amplified their collective ability to assist school districts across the United States. What sets Dr. Hodge apart is his remarkable ability to bridge the gap between theory and practice. He has a proven track record of helping educators in diverse settings – rural, urban, and suburban – implement necessary changes to meet and exceed rigorous academic standards. His expertise in creating and sustaining academic excellence has made him an indispensable resource for schools nationwide.

Dr. Hodge's top-selling book, *You Can Get in the Way: How You Can be a Roadblock to Risk Factors* has been used as a guide by thousands of educators to galvanize the efforts of entire school staffs to help students reach their full potential. This influential work brings together those who support students regardless of their job title, creating unified teams focused on student success.

As one of America's most respected voices in education, Dr. John W. Hodge continues to inspire and guide educators, helping them overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. His presentations and consultations serve as catalysts for continuous improvement in schools across the country, solidifying his position as a transformative figure in American education.

John will also be presenting a breakout session.

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SESSION

Friday, December 4, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.



Courageous Redesign: Designing Proactive Systems for Stronger Student Outcomes

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: 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 a breakout session.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshop – Carolyn Stone
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	"Meet and Greet" Mixer in the Exhibit Hall
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Recognition Dinner

Thursday, December 3, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration & Information Center Open
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast for First-Time Attendees (Location TBD)
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the Ballroom
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Opening Session with Keynote Speaker – John Hodge
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Transition Break
10:15 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Breakout Session 1
11:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors and Poster Sessions
11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	Breakout Session 2
12:25 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.	Greetings from ASCA and Lunch Buffet
1:25 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 3
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors and Poster Sessions
2:45 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.	Breakout Session 4
3:35 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Transition Break
3:50 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Breakout Session 5
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Networking Social Fun Night

Friday, December 4, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Registration & Information Center Open
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Exhibits Open
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Breakout Session 6
9:20 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.	Transition Break
9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Breakout Session 7
10:25 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break & Last Chance to visit Exhibitors
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Breakout Session 8
11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Transition Break
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon & Closing Keynote Speaker – Terri Tchorzynski
1:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Closing and Preview of next year's Conference

REGISTRATION

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

NAME (as it should appear on name badge) _____

ATTENDEE EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION) _____

Current PSCA member? ❑ Yes ❑ No Member # _____

JOB TITLE - (REQUIRED PLEASE) _____

ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

WORK ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CELL PHONE ( ) _____ WORK PHONE ( ) _____

ARE YOU A FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE? ❑ Yes ❑ No ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY? Yes ❑ No ❑

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: ❑ GLUTEN-FREE ❑ VEGETARIAN ❑ VEGAN ❑ DAIRY-FREE

Become a PSCA member and save!

Before registering for the conference, visit *www.paschoolcounselor.org* to become or renew your annual membership.

	Professional / Associate MEMBER*	Retired / Student / Lifetime MEMBER*	NON-MEMBER
A. Main Conference (December 3-4)			
Early Registration (by Oct. 15, 2026)**	$300	$200	$400
Regular Registration (after Oct. 15, 2026)	$350	$250	$450
B. Thursday Only (December 3)			
Early Registration (by Oct. 15, 2026)**	$200	$125	$300
Regular Registration (after Oct. 15, 2026)	$250	$150	$350
C. Pre-Conference (December 2)			
Legal Literacy and Ethical Practice (Stone)	$40	$35	$50
D. Recognition Dinner (December 2)	$45	$45	$45
		TOTAL DUE (A+B+C+D):	

* Must be a PSCA Member where noted. Membership must be good through December 4, 2026.

** 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.

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/pascac

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 PSCA 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 November 2, 2026. All cancellations before November 2, 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. There will be no refunds if you register as a NonMember and then later become a member. Please become a Member or renew your membership before registering for the conference. 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 PSCA Conference will conform to all necessary regulations/guidelines that are in place as of the date of the conference.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Reserve your hotel room today! Limited Availability!











The Penn Stater Hotel & Convention Center

215 Innovation Blvd • State College, PA 16803

All events of the Conference will be located in the Convention Center. Standard rooms at the hotel may be reserved at the special conference rate of **$154 per night** plus applicable taxes and fees.

Hotel features include:

- Multiple Restaurants
- Indoor pool & fitness center
- Free on-site parking
- Conference sessions on site

TO REGISTER BY PHONE: Call the hotel directly at **1-814-863-5050** and reference the "PSCA26A" group code.

TO REGISTER ONLINE:
Go to **www.ncyionline.org/pscac** and follow the link to the hotel's reservation system.

Room Block Cutoff: Rooms are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. We recommend making reservations early. After **November 2, 2026**, rooms and rates are subject to availability.

Relax and Recharge

After full conference days, it's nice to have easy options nearby to relax or enjoy a change of pace. The convention center is located right next to **Penn State**, so take some time to visit the campus and check out one of the several museums on campus.



Dining & Coffee

- Casual and sit-down dining options
- Coffee shops and dessert spots
  Examples inside the hotel include: The Gardens Restaurant and Legends Pub. Café Laura (Penn State Hospitality), about a 5–7 minute walk on campus



Shopping

- Clothing, books, and gift shops
- National retailers and specialty stores
- Located throughout Downtown State College



Movies & Entertainment

- Movie theater nearby for an easy evening out
- A relaxed way to unwind after sessions



Self-Care & Services

- Salons, nail services, and massage options
- Convenient services located nearby