



WELCOME TO OUR

WSCA Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

DR. DAPHNE ALI, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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PAST EVENTS

RETIREE LUNCHEON
SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION
SPRING COLLEGE FAIR
SPRING CONFERENCE
MS/HS BREAKFAST WORKSHOP
LICAC
HOLIDAY HAPPENING
FALL COLLEGE FAIR

HEY WSCA MEMBER, HOW ARE YOU?

Dear WSCA Community

🌸 Spring is in full bloom, and so is our dedication to serving the western suffolk counseling community! Welcome to our vibrant Spring Newsletter, where we invite you to embark on a journey through the highlights of the 2023-2024 school year.

As your trusted resource, we're thrilled to showcase the remarkable achievements and milestones that have shaped our association's journey. But that's not all! Dive deeper into the heart of our community as we unveil exciting opportunities to join hands with us, discover invaluable insights from our esteemed president, and foster connections that strengthen the fabric of our counseling network.

Join us as we celebrate growth, collaboration, and empowerment in the counseling landscape. 🌻

WSCA President Alert

THIS IS SARAH, OUR PRESIDENT!

Sarah is excited to lead as president of WSCA and has done an amazing job during the 2023-2024 school year! With over 20 years in this vibrant community, her journey from Westchester to SUNY Oneonta sparked her passion for guiding students. Currently at SUNY Old Westbury, she makes wonderful strides. She encourages counselors to join WSCA for events, have fun, and together ensure our students shine! ✨

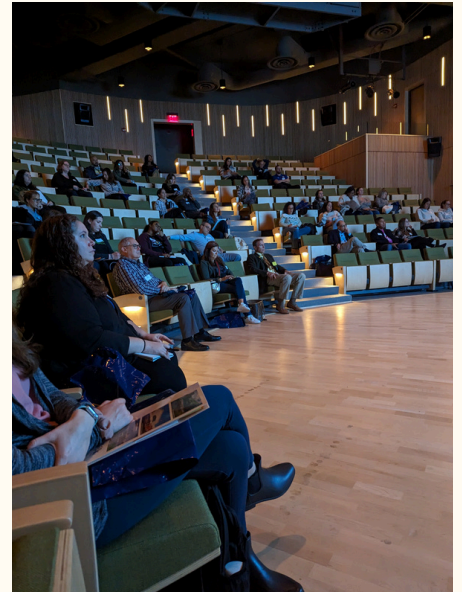


LICAC 2023 HIGHLIGHT

On Friday, October 20th, 2023, LICAC held its 47th Annual Conference at SUNY Old Westbury. The keynote speaker for the 2023 conference was Dr. Vera Feuer, M.D., Northwell Health who spoke on the Present State of Affairs on Adolescents' Behavioral and Mental Health. In her Keynote Presentation Dr. Feuer addressed the overall concern with adolescent behavioral and mental health wellness, rising statistics on anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and substance use and the impacts of social media and tech-based addictions in adolescents.

With 15 workshops offered ranging in topics from How We are Failing to Create an Environment of Equity for Traditional and Post-traditional Foreign-born, When Trade School Is a Better Choice, Generative AI in Education, and Supporting Our LGBTQIA+ Youth Within Our Schools, those who attended enjoyed a day filled with enriching discussions, connections to invaluable resources to utilize with their students, and connecting with colleagues from all over Nassau, Suffolk and Queens county.

Please mark your calendars and join us on Friday, October 25th at SUNY OLD Westbury for the 48th Annual LICAC Conference. Visit our website <http://www.licac.org/> over the coming months for updates.



LICAC 2024 Keynote Speaker



Adam Birkenstock, LCSW
Program Director with Long
Island Council on Alcoholism

Adam Birkenstock is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who oversees the operations at the heart of LICADD's mission, providing support, guidance, and oversight to each member of the clinical team. He provides supervision and training to staff members, drawing from his years of experience as a direct service worker in an OASAS setting to help his clinicians make appropriate referrals and provide effective care. Adam also coordinates with treatment agencies across Long Island to ensure all individuals contacting LICADD are accessing quality care at facilities that can help them on the path to recovery, and maintains contact with communities across the island combatting the epidemic of drug use. When he's not meeting with professionals, educating clinicians and communities, or assisting his team in their work, you'll find him on the phones at LICADD and in session with clients seeking help. The mission of LICADD calls on staff to engage on all levels to aid our communities in healing from drug and alcohol addiction – Adam is dedicated to that mission.

Adam received his undergraduate degree in German Language and Literature from Franklin & Marshall College in 2009, and his Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University in 2013.

Topic: Marijuana's Impact on Our Youth

This keynote presentation will review the impacts of marijuana on our youth, discussing how its legalization has shifted social attitudes and perceptions of marijuana use, as well as marijuana's biological, behavioral, and social impacts it has on today's children and adolescents.

Participants Will:

- 1) Receive data on the current landscape of marijuana use;
- 2) Increase an understanding of the impact of marijuana legalization;
- 3) Identify the pros and cons of marijuana use;
- 4) Gain insight into how our youth experience marijuana's effects.

SPRING COLLEGE FAIR

**THE SPRING COLLEGE FAIR WAS BIG NEWS -
DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND NEXT SEASON!**

Picture this: a whirlwind of excitement, a kaleidoscope of opportunities, and a springtime extravaganza like no other! The Spring College Fair was an absolute blast, buzzing with energy and overflowing with possibilities. From prestigious universities to hidden gems, students embarked on a thrilling journey through the vibrant world of higher education. With each table offering a glimpse into their unique campus culture, academic programs, and extracurricular opportunities, the fair ignited passions and sparked dreams. From insightful conversations with admissions officers to interactive workshops, every moment was an adventure waiting to unfold. Students left with hearts full of inspiration, minds brimming with newfound knowledge, and a spring in their step, ready to conquer the next chapter of their academic journey.



Spring Conference for L.I. Counselors

WE LOVED HAVING THIS EVENT AT FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE!



The counselors' journey through enlightening workshops was nothing short of exhilarating! From diving deep into supporting students and communities amidst rising hate crimes to unraveling the mysteries of FAFSA Simplification, every session was a beacon of inspiration. Counselors honed their craft in creating letters of recommendation with finesse, delved into the critical topic of human trafficking prevention, and explored a myriad of resources for student success in higher education. With a keen eye on college admissions trends and the delicate balance of work-life integration, counselors discovered strategies to navigate the modern world with grace. They learned the art of crafting impactful personal statements, the importance of self-care, and the power of empathetic leadership in fostering inclusive school environments. Through it all, they championed awareness for students with disabilities and their unique transition needs, leaving empowered to make a difference in every student's journey.

RETIREE LUNCHEON

RETIREMENT IS A BEAUTIFUL THING!



This was an unforgettable Retiree's Lunch at J&R Steakhouse, exclusively for our cherished retired counselors! They reconnected with old friends, shared inspiring stories, and enjoyed a delightful meal in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. This special event is the perfect opportunity to celebrate your incredible contributions and to reminisce on your impactful journeys. Don't miss out on the fun, laughter, and camaraderie – come and be a part of this joyous occasion next year! Your presence will make it even more memorable. See you there!

Scholarship Reception

AN AMAZING NIGHT AT WILSON TECH - DIX HILLS CAMPUS



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Ken Grotell, Scholarship Chair

Sabrina Fearon

Peter Franzese

Marilyn Harris

Bill Lynch

David Oroza

Melissa Solomon

Sarah Taiclet

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Sasha Amico, Elwood-John Glenn High School

Dylan Cashin, East Hampton High School

Erin Kenny, Elwood-John Glenn High School

Amaya Nieves, Northport High School

Britton Sikoryak, Harborfields High School

The scholarship reception was nothing short of spectacular. WSCA celebrated the incredible achievements of amazing high school seniors! These winners, each a beacon of talent and dedication, dazzled the scholarship committee with their stories of perseverance, innovation, and community service. The evening was filled with heartfelt speeches, joyful applause, and a sense of excitement for the bright futures ahead. Congratulations to all our outstanding recipients—you truly are the stars of tomorrow!

DONATE TODAY

WESTERN SUFFOLK
COUNSELORS' ASSOCIATION

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Every year WSCA gives scholarships to our local teens. Please donate as much as you can. It goes a long way.

SCAN

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venmo



Find us on
Facebook

www.wsuffolkcounselors.org



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

WSCA is excited to announce
Hauppauge High School
will be the new location for their college
fairs starting next fall.

Save the date: October 15th 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER 15TH:

FALL COLLEGE FAIR @ HAUPPAUGE HS

OCTOBER 18TH:

OP-INFORM @ SUNY OLD WESTBURY

OCTOBER 25TH:

LICAC @ SUNY OLD WESTBURY

MARCH 21ST:

SPRING CONFERENCE @ SUNY
FARMINGDALE

APRIL 28TH:

SPRING COLLEGE FAIR @ HAUPPAUGE HS

2024-2025



Coming Up Next

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY & MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Monday, June 10th, 2024

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

View Restaurant

R.S.V.P BY JUNE 5TH

Membership

Regular Membership - \$25

Student Membership - \$20

Retired Membership - \$20

Lifetime Membership - No Charge

(Must have been voted by Executive Board)

APPLICATION

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON



Western Suffolk Counselors' Association
invites you to the
2024 Annual Awards Meeting & Luncheon
Sponsored by St. Joseph's University, NY



DATE
CHANGE

Monday, June 10, 2024
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

VIEW Restaurant
3 Consuelo Place, Oakdale, NY 11769

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres on the Deck (cash bar)
followed by the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

*The Awards Luncheon will announce the 2024 recipients for the following awards:
Administrator of the Year, Counselor of the Year, & Exemplary Practice.
New Retirees will be recognized during the Awards portion of the event.*

Members:	\$25.00
Non-members:	\$50.00 (includes WSCA membership for 2024-2025)
Student/Retiree Members:	\$20.00
Student/Retiree Non-Members:	\$40.00 (includes WSCA membership for 2024-2025)

R.S.V.P. by Monday, June 5, 2024 by [clicking here](#).

If you are just joining WSCA, please submit your [online application](#).

Pay with Venmo using QR code below, pay on-site on day of event (check or exact cash),
or mail payment to: WSCA - PO Box 100, Commack, NY 11725
Make check payable to WSCA

Any questions, email asilva@sjny.edu

WSCA WSCA
@WSCA-WSCA

venmo



JOIN THE PARTY & JOIN OUR COUNCIL

Make sure to follow
"Western Suffolk Counselors
Association—WSCA" on FB.



We post relevant conferences, helpful tip sheets to reprint for your parents, students and teachers, latest news on regulation changes, solid resources for everyday practice, photos of our members at events, etc...

Please email Melissa Solomon with any questions or goodies to post. If you would like to be tagged in any photos, please let me know.

msolomon@copiague.net

CURRENT VACANCIES

- **Director of Guidance Rep.**
- **Elem. School Counselor Rep.**
- **College Rep.**
- **Graduate Student Rep. (LIU)**
- **Scholarship Chair**
- **By-Laws Committee Chair**
- **Parliamentarian**



To contact the Western Suffolk Counselors' Association
please call (631) 804-5305 or e-mail
wsuffolkcounselors@gmail.com.

WSCA, P.O. Box 100, Commack, NY 11725

WWW.WSUFFOLKCOUNSELORS.ORG

