

# WSCA Newsletter



WINTER 2025/2026

Dr. Daphne Ali  
Newsletter Editor

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## ❄️ Warm Winter Wishes from WSCA! 🌲

Reflecting on a Season of Connection, Growth, and Holiday Cheer

As the snow starts to fall and the year winds down, we're wrapping up 2025 with gratitude, celebration, and connection! The **WSCA Winter Newsletter** is filled with highlights that capture the incredible spirit of our counseling community.

In this edition, you'll find **recaps of our recent events**—including the inspiring Fall Membership Meeting, the impactful LICAC 49th Annual Conference, our bustling Fall College & Career Fair 2025, and the festive Holiday Happening! Plus, don't miss our exciting announcements about upcoming events in the new year and the moment you've been waiting for... the winner of our "Caption This Corner" contest!

So grab a cozy cup of cocoa, settle in, and enjoy this heartwarming edition of the WSCA Winter Newsletter—celebrating connection, reflection, and all the wonderful things that make our community thrive. 💙🌟

[www.westernsuffolkcounselors.org](http://www.westernsuffolkcounselors.org)



# 🍁 Fall Membership Meeting Recap: A Bright Start to the School Year!

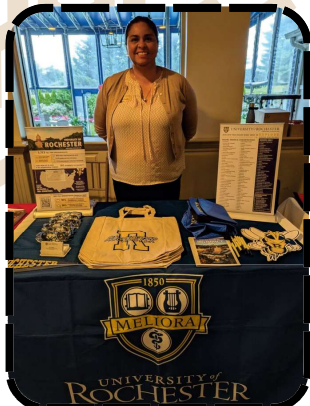
What a fantastic way to kick off the 2025–2026 school year! The Fall Membership Meeting brought together school counselors, college representatives, and community partners from across **Suffolk and Nassau Counties** for an inspiring and energizing evening.

With three incredible sponsors—**Dickinson College**, **Rutgers University**, and the **University of Rochester**—members enjoyed hearing firsthand from admissions professionals about the latest campus updates, unique academic programs, and ways to best support our students through the college process.

Beyond the college connections, attendees also gained valuable insights from the **District Attorney's Office**, which shared important **resources and initiatives available to K–12 schools**. The presentation sparked meaningful conversations about how we can continue to support the safety, well-being, and success of our students both inside and outside the classroom.

Perhaps best of all, the event was filled with **laughter, reconnections, and new friendships** as counselors from across Long Island came together to celebrate the start of another school year. It was the perfect reminder that—when we connect, collaborate, and share knowledge—we all grow stronger together. 🌟

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our sponsors for helping make this event such a memorable success!

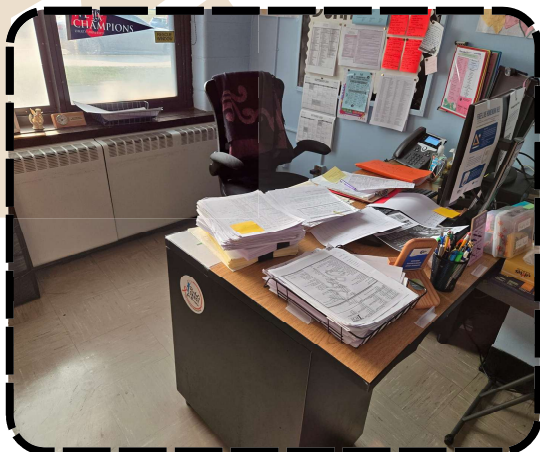






## Caption This Corner—Winner Spotlight!

Lauren Brunoni & Rosie  
Huntington High School Counselor



"Behind every messy pile is a student's future getting a little brighter!"

Last month's winning caption came from Mrs. Lauren Brunoni, a dedicated Huntington High School Counselor with 15 years of experience—and an incredible knack for heartwarming humor. Her caption didn't just make us smile, it reminded us why we love what we do: "Behind every messy pile is a student's future getting a little brighter!" Cue all the feels! ♥

We're thrilled to share that even a few students voted for Mrs. Brunoni's quote (because yes—school counselors are inspiring across all grade levels!).

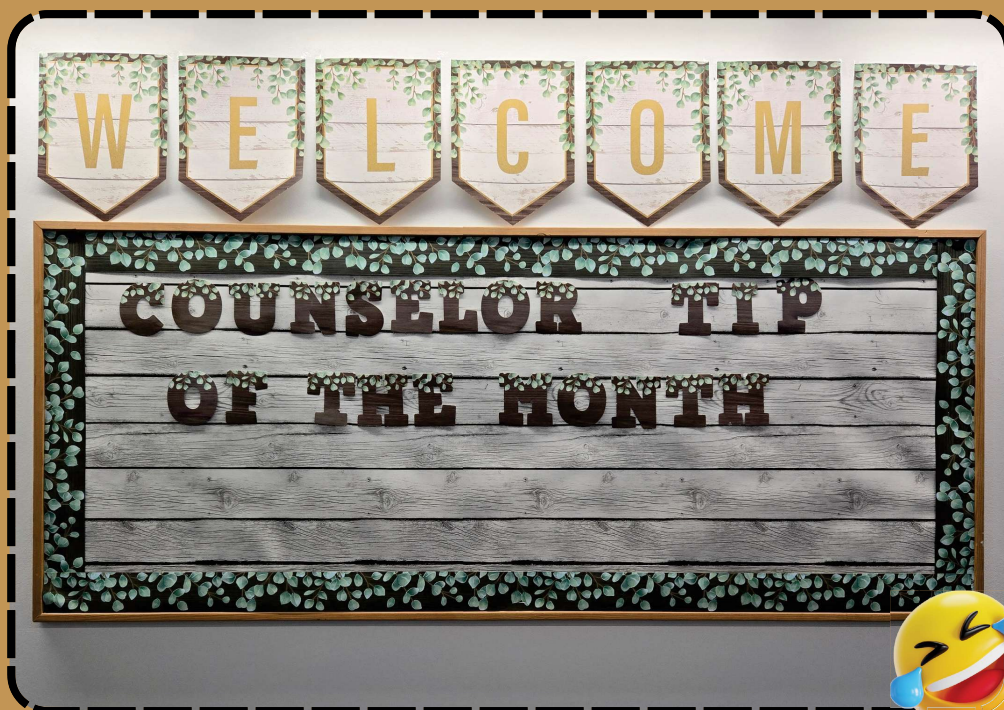


✨ Ready for Round Two?

Let's keep the fun and positivity going! 📷 This month's photo: "Bulletin Board in Progress" — because nothing says school counseling in the Fall quite like a bulletin board proudly labeled "in progress" ...for two months and counting.

🎨 Take a look at the photo below and send us your most creative idea! Show off your wit, your creativity, your humor, and that "only school counselors will understand" kind of insight. Who knows? Your caption might just make everyone's day! 😊

## Caption This Corner Round #2



Sample Caption:

"Fall Bulletin Board" — which is ironic, since it's now winter. 🧊



[Click Here To Submit An Entry](#)





# FALL COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR 2025

## A Night of Inspiration, Insight, and Incredible Energy @ Hauppauge High School

This year's Fall College & Career Fair brought together an incredible crowd of students, families, and educators across Long Island — **all eager to explore the many possibilities** that await after high school. The turnout was truly outstanding, filling the room with excitement, curiosity, and meaningful conversations.

More than one hundred representatives from colleges, universities, career programs, and professional pathways joined us for the evening. Students took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions, gather materials, and receive guidance tailored to their goals and interests.

### A Spotlight Moment: The College Panel Discussion

A highlight of the event was the dynamic College Panel Discussion, featuring admissions representatives from four exceptional institutions:

- Colgate University
- The George Washington University
- Stony Brook University
- University of Wisconsin–Madison

Panelists offered valuable insights into the admissions process, including essay tips, test-optional considerations, and the qualities that help applicants stand out. Attendees submitted thoughtful questions ahead of time, making the discussion engaging and highly relevant.





# FALL COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR 2025 CONTINUED...

## A Scholarship Winner!

Adding even more excitement to the night, one lucky student, **Danicheline Baptiste** from **Deer Park UFSD**, was selected to receive the scholarship award offered by our event. This award serves as a powerful reminder that **opportunities can appear when students show up, engage, and stay open to what's possible. Will your student be next?**



## A Night That Mattered

The energy throughout the fair showcased just how **committed** our students are to planning purposeful futures. Whether discovering new schools, forming connections with admissions counselors, or exploring emerging career paths, every attendee walked away with new information and renewed motivation.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the Fall College & Career Fair 2025 a **memorable success**. Events like this continue to empower our students to approach their futures with confidence, curiosity, and limitless possibility.

See you at the **WSCA Spring College & Career Fair**  
**April 20, 2026!**







presents its

# COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

**APRIL 20, 2026**

**6:30PM TO 8:30PM**

at

**HAUPPAUGE HIGH  
SCHOOL**

This event is free and open to ALL students and families. Over 100 representatives will be on hand to answer questions and offer information. Students are encouraged to register ahead of time to make their fair visit more efficient.

**A SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE AWARDED  
TO ONE LUCKY ATTENDEE!!**

**REGISTER  
NOW**



Don't miss our "Ask The Experts" panel starting at 5:30. Admissions reps will be speaking about how to maximize your chances of getting acceptances. Submit your questions here.



[www.westernsuffolkcounselors.org](http://www.westernsuffolkcounselors.org)



# Collaboration in Action at LICAC

WSCA Co-Hosts a Powerful Day of Professional Learning  
on Long Island



WSCA was proud to co-host the 49th Long Island Counselors' Annual Conference (LICAC) at SUNY College at Old Westbury this fall alongside our colleagues from EECA and NCA. Members from across the region gathered for a professional day filled with **learning, connection, and shared purpose.** 🧡

The event featured a wide range of workshops addressing timely topics—from **college pathways and financial aid updates to AI, comprehensive counseling programs, and career development.** Attendees appreciated the practical strategies offered throughout the day, as well as opportunities to reflect on evolving challenges and the needs of our students. ☀️

One highlight was the lively conversation that followed the keynote presentation on AI's impact on our youth by Varon Consulting. While reactions ranged from curious to cautious, the discussion underscored the **importance of staying informed about emerging tools that may shape the future of student support.**

Most memorable, however, was the sense of community. Members from WSCA, EECA, and NCA shared meaningful dialogue and reaffirmed what unites us all: **we are here for our students, and we're stronger when we learn together.** 💙

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this year's LICAC. We're already looking forward to next year as we continue to grow, collaborate, and support one another in this essential work. 🌱





# DICKINSON DELIVERS

Academic excellence. Global reach.  
Personal support. Let's connect.

At Dickinson, we believe in the power of a liberal-arts education to transform lives—and we know that transformation starts with you. As a high school counselor, you play a pivotal role in guiding students toward futures full of possibility. We're here to make that journey easier.

## LOCATED IN HISTORIC CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA, DICKINSON OFFERS:

**46 majors, plus minors and interdisciplinary programs** spanning the sciences, humanities and social sciences.

**Global opportunities** through one of the most immersive and interconnected study-abroad programs in the country.

**A supportive community** that prepares students to tackle real-world challenges.

**A collaborative admissions team** ready to connect with you and your students.



## Let's connect!

Visit [dickinson.edu/counselors](https://dickinson.edu/counselors) to:

- Refer a student directly to our admissions team
- Request materials or a school visit
- Explore resources tailored for counselors



# Dickinson

Dickinson.edu  
[admissions@dickinson.edu](mailto:admissions@dickinson.edu)  
800-644-1773

  
#DsonRedDevils #DsonProud



# Holiday Happenings with WSCA 🎄

## A Season of Joy, Community, and Counselor Connection

This year's WSCA Holiday Happening at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore was truly glorious—an evening filled with festive music, joyful laughter, meaningful connections, and delicious food. Members and guests were delighted in the smooth sounds of the live jazz band **The Fellowship** 🎷, while enjoying a lively icebreaker activity, exciting raffles, and nonstop smiles all around. 🎵🌟 It was a warm, celebratory night that perfectly captured the spirit of the season.

In the spirit of giving, attendees also donated to the **Babylon Animal Shelter** 🐶🐱💙 supporting animals in need this holiday season. 🐾

What made the night truly special was the community—school counselors, social workers, college counselors, retirees, friends, and family all celebrating together as one caring network. 🧡💙

As we look ahead to a bright new year 🌟, the evening reminded us why we entered this profession, and encouraged us to **stay active in the WSCA community**, grow professionally, and support one another. 📚🌟

We left with **full hearts, renewed purpose, and excitement** for what's ahead. 🎁🌟 Cheers to **collaboration, joyful moments**, and a wonderful new year! 🥂🎉🌟





Please share this exciting opportunity with your students and encourage them to showcase their creativity, voice, and talent. Let's inspire the next generation of poets! ✍️🌟

Sarah Goodman  
Suffolk County Teen Poet Laureate

Chip Williford  
Suffolk County Poet Laureate  
Co-Host of Poetry Street

Maggie Bloomfield  
Emmy-Winning Lyricist  
Co-Host of Poetry Street

# THE SUFFOLK YOUTH POETRY COMPETITION

1<sup>st</sup> place prize: \$100

2<sup>nd</sup> place prize: Dog Eared Bard's Books gift cards worth \$50

3<sup>rd</sup> place prize: Dog Eared Bard's Books gift card worth \$25

All submissions will be considered for publication!

## Competition Rules:

- Contestants must be aged 13-18 and reside in Suffolk County, NY
- Poems must be attached to email as a Word Document
- Contestants can submit up to 2 poems per submission, and only 1 submission
- Poems must have a maximum of 35 lines and must be in size 12 Times New Roman font

PLEASE SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO  
[SuffolkYouthPoetryComp@gmail.com](mailto:SuffolkYouthPoetryComp@gmail.com)

ALL SUBMISSIONS DUE DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025



# Follow us!



Western Suffolk Counselors' Association



Instagram



facebook

Don't forget to tag us with any pics you take.  
#WSCAProfessionalCounselors



## ☀️ STEP INTO LEADERSHIP WITH WSCA

*Your Voice, Your Impact, Our Future*

☀️ **Current Openings:**

Secretary

Director of Guidance

Elementary School Representative

✉️ *Interested in applying or learning more?*

*Reach out to us directly to express your interest in any of these roles.*

*Step up, get involved, and help amplify the voice of school counselors across Western Suffolk County!*

## 📢 ADVERTISE WITH WSCA!

WSCA offers opportunities for full-page and half-page advertisements in our newsletter.

This is a great way to promote programs, services, colleges, community partnerships, or counseling-related initiatives directly to school counselors across the region.

Interested in placing an ad? Contact the newsletter editor for pricing, publication dates, and design guidelines.

*(Example half-page ad shown below!)*





# WSCA NEEDS YOU!

BE PART OF IT



## JOIN A COMMITTEE



### SPRING CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

DAVID OROZA - CO-CHAIR

KEN GROTELL - CO-CHAIR

### FALL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

PATRICIA MCCALLUM - CHAIR

### PD BREAKFAST

RAY POLK - CO-CHAIR

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

KEN GROTELL - CHAIR

### SPRING COUNSELOR/

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

### LUNCHEON

ROB PERTUSATI - CHAIR

### COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR COMMITTEE

SUZANNE MILLER - CO-CHAIR

MELISSA SOLOMON - CO-CHAIR

DEBRA WALLING - CO-CHAIR

### RETIREE COMMITTEE

RAY MARTINEZ - CO-CHAIR

NICK AMATO - CO-CHAIR

### LICAC 2025 COMMITTEE

DR. THERESA SALADINO - CHAIR

CLICK  
HERE

## Upcoming WSCA Events 2026



### FEBRUARY 26

COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BREAKFAST

8AM - 10AM @ SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
GRANT CAMPUS

### LATE MARCH

SPRING CONFERENCE - TBD

### APRIL 20

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

5:30PM - 8:30PM @ HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL

5:30PM - 6:30PM (PANEL DISCUSSION)

6:30PM - 8:30PM (FAIR)

### APRIL 30

COUNSELOR/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
LUNCHEON

12PM - 2PM @ STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

### MAY 13

SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

6PM - 8PM @ WILSON TECH DIX HILLS CAMPUS

### MAY 19

RETIREE LUNCHEON - TBD

### JUNE 11

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY

12PM - 3PM @ THE VIEW

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