

Newsletter

WINTER 2025/2026

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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. 

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!

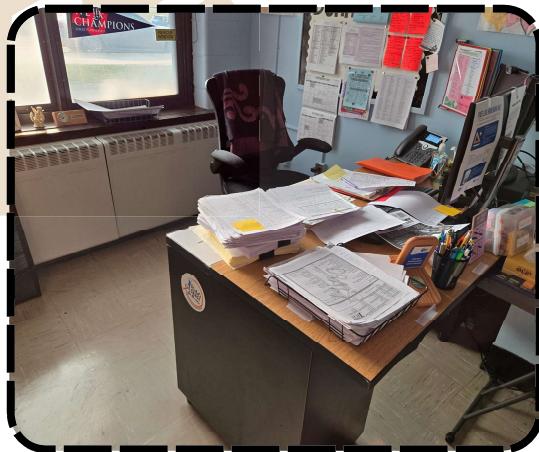




Caption This Corner—Winner Spotlight!

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

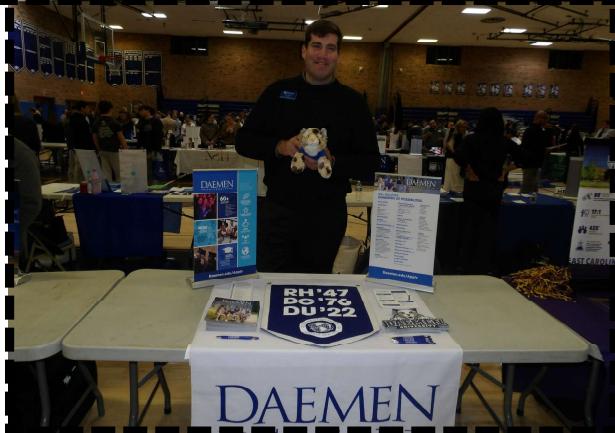
This year's Fall College & Career Fair brought together an incredible crowd of students, families, and educators across Long Island — **all eager to explore the many possibilities** that await after high school. The turnout was truly outstanding, filling the room with excitement, curiosity, and meaningful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

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.

REGISTER
NOW



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. 🌟



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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

1st place prize: \$100

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

3rd 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

ALL SUBMISSIONS DUE DECEMBER 31st, 2025

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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

**CLICK
HERE**

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

KEN GROTELL - CHAIR

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR COMMITTEE

SUZANNE MILLER - CO-CHAIR
MELISSA SOLOMON - CO-CHAIR
DEBRA WALLING - CO-CHAIR

LICAC 2025 COMMITTEE

DR. THERESA SALADINO - CHAIR

FALL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

PATRICIA MCCALLUM - CHAIR

PD BREAKFAST

RAY POLK - CO-CHAIR

SPRING COUNSELOR/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LUNCHEON

ROB PERTUSATI - CHAIR

RETIREE COMMITTEE

RAY MARTINEZ - CO-CHAIR
NICK AMATO - CO-CHAIR

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