

**School Counselors Support Every Student
VTSCA Conference Schedule
Friday September 29, 2017**

8:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:45 Welcome & Introductions

9:00-10:00 Keynote Presentation

Barbara Gruener: Mindset, Heartset, Skillset: Moving From Me To We

Nationally known school counselor and character coach Barbara Gruener is a passionate, lifelong learner who thrives on energizing caregivers as she positively inspires caring connections and influences school culture and climate transformation. During her 34 years in public education, Barbara has been blessed to grow alongside of learners from every age and stage, preK through 12th. Barbara is the author of What's Under Your Cape? SUPERHEROES of the Character Kind and the Corner on Character blog. She and her husband John live in Friendswood, TX, and have three adult children

10:00-10:15 Break

- **Check out vendors!**

10:15-11:30 Morning Workshops

- 1. Allison Wright, GLAD Attorney: Got LGBTQ Rights? Bullying and Harassment**
LGBTQ students deserve to be able to take full advantage of their education: to attend school in safety, to participate fully in classes and activities, and to have their whole selves treated with respect. This interactive workshop with attorneys and staff from GLAD will engage students and their adult supporters in a presentation and discussion of students' legal rights in schools.

- 2. Tanya Sousa: Creating the Counseling Environment**
Discussion and presentation on how the environment we set up in our counseling spaces affects students negatively or positively and why taking time to create a specific environment in the office is important. Learn about theories on the effects of color, art, bringing nature inside and furniture placement. Learn tricks on making the most out of what's at your disposal even if you have a small or no budget for "renovation". Participants will have time to work on a "dream plan" for their own office space with Tanya available to offer suggestions on how to make it happen on a dime.

- 3. Sean Corcoran, ACT; Patti Tomashot, Director of School Counseling- Stowe High School; Mark Floyd, Director of School Counseling- Essex High School: How Vermont School Counselors are using ACT and PreACT results and data.**

This session will provide information on how School Counselors in Vermont value and use ACT data. We will discuss the ACT and the PreACT assessments and how schools use the results to assist students with educational and career planning. We will provide an overview of both assessments as well as provide you with information about how to use this data to prepare targeted student academic and career planning goals.

- 4. Sarah Emery: Financial Literacy**

To be announced.

11:30-12:30 Lunch, Awards Recognition, Membership Meeting

- School Counselor of the Year (James Cawley Award)
- New Counselor Award (5 years of less)
- Lifetime Achievement Award

12:30-1:45 Workshops

- 1. Alison Wright, GLAD Attorney: Question and Answer Session**

Come get your questions answered by Allison during this Q & A session!

- 2. Sara Chesbrough- Youth Thrive: Protective & Promotive Factors for Healthy Youth Development and Well-Being**

Join us for an introduction to Youth Thrive - a new framework that is revolutionizing the way we approach working with adolescents. The goal of Youth Thrive is to ensure that all youth are supported in ways that advance healthy development and well-being, while reducing the impact of negative life experiences. Youth Thrive is a research-informed model from the Center for the Study of Social Policy that combines the most current science about adolescent brain development, trauma, resilience, and the importance of social connections into one framework to ensure young people in our care do more than just survive. This training will give you the tools to better connect with and understand how to serve young people.

- 3. Emily Harris and Charlotte McCorkel- Crisis Team VT: School Emergency Preparedness**

During this session, we will discuss the current resources that exist for School Emergency Preparedness and the role of school counselors before, during and after an emergency situation.

4. Marilyn Cargill: Help Students Reach Higher with FAFSA

Vermont students must continue their education and training after high school to be qualified for careers in Vermont's new economy. The state's soon-to-be announced goal is that 70 percent of Vermonters will hold a certificate of value or degree by 2025.

Following the efforts by teachers and counselors to engage students in a postsecondary plan, the discussion on how to pay for college or training begins with the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Eligible students can unlock thousands in "gift aid" through federal Pell grants, Vermont state grants, need-based institutional aid and scholarships once they've completed the FAFSA. VSAC will share plans for the second annual FAFSA Completion Initiative beginning in October. Also covered will be findings from VSAC's Senior Survey, detailing statewide and school-level information on student aspirations. Those findings are the basis for the new Aspirations Program at three high schools in Vermont. Learn how research findings have been used to fine-tune outreach programs to drive significant gains in student aspirations.

1:45-2:00 Break

- **Check out vendors!**

2:00-3:15 Workshops

1. Adam Warrington: Taking the Guesswork out of Community College Transfer

The Vermont State Colleges System's new Direct Admissions program is designed to take all the uncertainty out of transferring from the Community College of Vermont to Lyndon, Johnson, Castleton or Vermont Tech. Clear pathway maps in 30+ programs (with more to come) help students to maximize their time and money at CCV. Every CCV course in every pathway leads to an associate degree and also applies directly to the destination Bachelor's degree. After successfully completing their pathway, students are guaranteed transfer admission without any hoops to jump through. Join representatives from multiple VSCS at this session to learn more about this great opportunity for your students.

2. Karen Richards, Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission: Implicit Bias

Through a combination of lecture, video and exercises, this training will explore the brain science behind implicit or unconscious bias and how those biases affect our perceptions and ultimately our behavior. The session will explore how these biases play out in the larger society in ways that can interfere with interpersonal relationships based on occupation, socioeconomic status, weight, political affiliation, etc., and deny equal opportunity to those in protected status (race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, etc.). The objective is to increase conscious awareness of the nature and sources of implicit bias, to recognize that everyone has implicit bias, to recognize the implications of it within the broader society and to develop

skills/strategies for reducing and overriding it.

3. Lori Howe, Prevent Child Abuse VT: Healthy Relationships Project

This session combines our child sexual abuse prevention programs: Care for Kids (for grades Pre-K through grade 2), We Care Elementary (grades 3-6), and SAFE-T (for grades 7-8).

4. Barbara Gruener: Social Stations

Sharpening The Saw In Social Stations: So you're thinking about giving Social Stations a try, but you're just not sure yet. Maybe it steps you WAY out of your comfort zone to give your students a choice about which skill they want to practice. Maybe you're worried that third graders might be too young to self-regulate. Maybe you're thinking that your teachers will say that all their students do in your room is play. If you connected with one or more of these, then this learning session is for you! Those teachers are right, because play is our brain's favorite way to learn. So why aren't we "playing" more? Join us for an in-depth look at how to set up your Social Stations and maximize your play time while you help your leaders sharpen the skills you've been working so diligently to model, teach, nurture, stretch, and grow in them.

3:15 Concluding Remarks