

MSCA President's Message The Uncharted Journey

School counselors are keenly aware that things rarely go as planned. Even on our wildest days, we've never encountered uncharted territory such as this. Things are fluid and the one thing we can now count on is change. As your state association president, I speak on behalf of all our Governing Board members to let you know you are not alone and we are walking alongside you – 6 feet apart, of course.

The week of March 16 found us all, MSCA Governing Board members as well, scrambling to put together our families, our jobs, and hopefully finding space for ourselves to adjust to a new normal. As schools closed, concerns were raised as to the role of the school counselor in these new circumstances. Board members have been in touch with ASCA through statewide leader meetings and through webinars. ASCA has been responsive to the concerns of school counselors through their increased webinar offerings to all school counselors as well as their reduced pricing on ASCU U professional development offerings. The ASCA Scene has many resources for school counselors on the Virtual School Counseling Lessons and Tools page.

We all need a beacon of hope as we take the next steps into this temporary reality. Yesterday, the MSCA Governing Board met to discuss how to best serve our members both now and going forward. Keep reading to discover how your state association is working for you.

1. The *Spring Conference: Looking through the career lens with 2020 vision* committee continues to work hard to find the best delivery means possible for this powerful professional development opportunity. The team will be blasting out information as soon as it becomes available.
2. Possible platforms for statewide roundtable discussions are being explored. MSCA is contacting other states who have initiated this communication tool for counselors across the state to connect and uplift one another through the sharing of ideas and resources.
3. A COVID-19 resources page has been added to the MSCA website. This will be a one-stop shop to find the latest resources as they become available.
4. Planning for the future continues – remember this current situation is temporary. MSCA plans to come out of this stronger than ever and invite you to join us in that mission.

Communications will continue regarding the following:

- a. MSCA Fall Conference *2020 Vision Focus on the Whole Child* registration is now open and can be accessed on the michiganschoolcounselor.org website.
- b. Conference proposals are now being accepted for the fall conference. What a great time to create your proposal to share the powerful work you are doing with and for students. Submit your proposal [here](#).
- c. Michigan School Counselor of the Year information will be arriving in your mailboxes shortly! Consider nominating yourself or a co-worker to represent our state.
- d. The Clay Scholarship committee will begin reviewing applications soon to choose this year's winner.

This is a shared uncharted journey. Mr. Rogers is famous for encouraging people to look for the helpers. School counselors are helpers to the extreme. It is hard for us to be disconnected from the students for whom we so desperately care. We worry about their well-being and safety. Our hearts break for the seniors whose journey through milestone traditions may be upended. Remember, you are not alone. I had one of my graduate students share last night that she has now prioritized relationships and adds the names of important people to connect with to her to-do list each day. Pretty cool idea, right.

None of us are as strong as the collective we. We've got this and we know how to navigate uncharted pathways. In so many ways, we do this daily. We are in this journey together and know the leadership of MSCA is working on your behalf.