

Counselor Connection

MDE Department of PreK-12 Professional School Counseling & Support Services

December 2021

Featured MSCA School Counselor of the Year (SCOY)



Kim Thompson has been selected as the 2021 SCOY for Mississippi School Counseling Association (MSCA). Kim is a school counselor at Myrtle Attendance Center in the Union County School District where she has been an employee for 17 years.

A Message from the Director of Counseling



Greetings School Counselors,

It is officially December and there are 25 days till a new year. What a great time of the year to reflect, renew, and refocus. As you count down to the holiday break, I challenge you to plan for some self-care and time to reflect on your "Why". Your "Why" is the purpose and the reason why you have chosen the most rewarding and life changing career. I want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the school counseling profession. Let's close 2021 strong and be ready to reset for the new year!

Thank you for the hard work and always remember, You Matter!

Resources

Principal/school counselor collaboration toolkit: [Enhancing the Principal-School Counselor Relationship](#) is a toolkit produced by the College Board in collaboration with ASCA and NASSP that offers a collaborative resource that acknowledges and celebrates the influence of the collaboration of principals and school counselors in school communities.

School counselors' SEL knowledge: ASCA collaborated with ACT on a new study that demonstrates school counselors' familiarity with SEL standards and curricula. Among the findings: Nearly 75% of district directors of school counseling indicated that building students' social and emotional skills were as important for school success as gaining academic knowledge. Respondents were most familiar with the ASCA Student Standards (83%). [Learn more here.](#)

Study abroad opportunities for students: The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) provides more than 1,000 merit-based fully funded opportunities for U.S. high school students to study abroad for a summer or an academic year in more than 25 countries. These scholarships cover international airfare, tuition, program costs,

meals, and living accommodations (often with a host family). Applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 18.5 when the program starts. The program is specifically targeting young people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a study abroad experience. [Learn more here.](#)

Tupelo Elvis Presley Fan Club offers \$10K in Music Scholarships: The Tupelo Elvis Presley Fan Club is announcing three music scholarships for high school seniors. Scholarships will be awarded in amounts of \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000. Students must be seniors enrolled now and graduating in 2022. Applicants must upload an audition video of one Elvis Presley song and one song of their choice to <https://www.youtube.com/c/tupeloelvisfanclub>. The file needs to be labeled SCHOLARSHIP 2022. Applicants can also email the link and forms found on the fan club’s website at www.tupeloelvisfanclub.com/index.php/scholarships/scholarship-entry-form to whitt@maxxsouth.net or jcpool1234@aol.com or complete the forms and mail to: Diane Whitt, 500 Forrest Drive, Okolona, MS 38860. Videos must be received by Feb. 14, 2022. Ten finalists will be notified, and three winners chosen for a live finale in March 2022. All finalists must be able to perform at the finale or forfeit. Scholarships are made possible by the sale of the Mississippi Elvis Auto Tag available at any Mississippi Tax Collector’s Office. For questions, call (662) 542-0138. See flyer here [scholarship flyer](#).

Professional Learning Opportunities

<p>ASCA Webinar Topic: NCAA Review Process: What’s Different During COVID-19? Date: December 8, 2021 Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (EST) Registration Link</p>	<p>MDE Sponsored by Gear UP MS RCU/MSU Getting Started with the ASCA National Model Date: December 9, 2021 Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm Registration Link</p>	<p>Get2College Topic: Learn About Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Date: December 7, 2021 Time: 10:00 am -11:00 am Zoom link</p>
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Save the Date

<p>Mississippi School Counseling Association (MSCA) Workshop Topic: Trauma Informed Schools Date: February 25, 2022 Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Flyer</p>	<p>Get2College Topic: Engaging Minority Populations for HBCU Recruitment Date: January 25, 2022 Time: 10:00 am -11:00 am Zoom link</p>	<p>Get2College Topic: College Access Educator Training Date: January 19, 2022 Time: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Zoom link</p>
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