Embracing Diversity and Tolerance!

Anyone following the current Presidential campaigns can see that there are very different views in America on the value of cultural and ethnic diversity. One thing is for sure: diversity is rapidly increasing, and we have a responsibility to help our students adapt to it in constructive ways.

Suggestions for embracing diversity and enhancing tolerance:

1) Make sure your students get exposure to positive role models from different cultures and ethnicities.
2) Establish special events that allow students to appreciate the benefits of diverse cultures. Food and music can make those special events a big hit!
3) Make sure you help your students to develop mindsets that are more flexible and adaptable. Cynical and sarcastic mindsets should be replaced by healthy compromise and constructive problem-solving approaches.
4) Organize diversity training opportunities for teachers, counselors and staff.
5) If funding prevents your school from hiring representatives from underrepresented populations, seek out volunteers that will allow your students to engage with “real” members of minorities, and not what is represented on television or by uninformed opinion.
6) As is illustrated all too often in American politics, the ugly alternatives to embracing diversity are hate, resentment, discrimination, suspicion, and prejudice.

Recognize and Reward Your Students!

This spring, the JLACD will again allocate a $200 scholarship to each school district (15) to be awarded to a college-bound graduating senior, chosen by JLACD School Counselors. In addition to the scholarship awards, we are providing each and every School Counselor who has established a membership with the JLACD (“see membership guidelines below), the opportunity to nominate two students for special “Student of Distinction” recognition by our Association. Submit your selections by May 20!

WANTED: New JLACD Leaders for the 2016-2018 Term

Please begin to give serious thought about taking on a leadership role with this great organization of dedicated professionals! We will be holding elections at our June luncheon meeting. If you are interested, let any officer know so we can give you the lowdown on JLACD Officer duties and answer any questions you may have. If you know of any other JLACD members who you think would be a good candidate, encourage them to contact us!

Higher Education Day Scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2016 @ JCC

The Jefferson-Lewis Association of Counseling & Development and the JCC Admissions Office will again sponsor the Higher Education Day event that attracts over ninety (90+) colleges and universities. Their representatives will be available to meet with students, parents and School Counselors. It is a great opportunity to connect with lots of colleges while saving lots of gas and time. Ryan Tastor of Sackets Harbor CS coordinates the event and can answer any questions you may have. (rtastor@sacketspatriots.org)
Message from the Outgoing President

Dear JLACD Members & Friends:

It has truly been an honor to serve as the President of this association of dedicated counseling professionals for the last two years. You have been tremendously supportive of our efforts to continue to build and innovate the JLACD. I am proud of the following successes that our leadership has achieved:

♦  Professional affiliation with the New York State School Counselors Association
♦  Our JLACD initiated the establishment of an Affiliates Section on the NYSSCA website that enables regional associations to share news, information and resources.
♦  The JLACD has sent nineteen (19) of our counselors to the NYSSCA Annual Conference over the last two years, showing an outstanding commitment to professional development.
♦  We have established JLACD scholarships and “Student of Distinction” awards to enable our counselors to recognize deserving students, and students that might not be recognized through the traditional school awards. By the time we meet in June, we will have provided special recognition for over fifty students since the program began. These recognitions register with students and help perpetuate their momentum toward better things to come!
♦  Our JLACD BRIDGE Bulletin was established to keep School Counselors better connected and informed.
♦  We’ve provided funding for two career fairs that were requested by JLACD school counseling offices.
♦  We organized a special recognition of past Presidents that reinforced our gratitude and appreciation for those who contributed to leading the JLACD to the strong position it is currently in.
♦  The JLACD has continued to sponsor and show strong support for the Higher Education Day which provides local students, their parents and our School Counselors the opportunity to meet and network with over 90 prospective college representatives each Fall.

Keep up the good work, and remember that in almost every kid there is the potential for greatness. Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandella, Mother Theresa, and Martin Luther King were not recognized for their greatness early on, yet they were nurtured by those around them to achieve greatness. You’re the nurturers and instillers of hope!

Best of fortunes to the JLACD and all its members and thanks again for this wonderful opportunity!

Matt

Counselor Inspiration (Martin Luther King)

◊  Injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere.
◊  The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.

Check out the following NYS School Counselor Association website link to see our JLACD presence on the state site: http://nyssca.org/?page_id=1251
Summary of JLACD Professional Development Activity (2013-2016)

This section is designed to document the programs that the JLACD sponsors, which enhance professional development. We welcome your feedback on topics that you feel will allow us to better serve our students.

10-3-16 Higher Education Day at Jefferson Community College
9-23-16 JLACD Fall Luncheon Meeting, Location and Topics TBD by New Officers
6-3-16 JLACD Early Summer Luncheon Meeting, Sackets Harbor, NY
  Program Topic: North Country Parent Assistance Center Update
  Program Topic: JCC STAR Program Summer Bridge Update
  Program Topic: JLACD Scholarships and Student of Distinction Awards
  Program Topic: JLACD Officer Elections

4-1-16 JLACD Mid-Winter Luncheon Meeting, John Deans Collaborative Learning Center, Jefferson CC
  Program Topic: Collaborative Mental Health Services for Students
  Program Topic: Support Services for Children of Military Families

12-4-15 JLACD Holiday Luncheon Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Ballroom, 1290 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY
  Program Topic: Raising Awareness of the Needs of Our LGBTQ Students
  Program Topic: Scholarship Opportunities (NCGG)

9-25-15 JLACD Fall Luncheon Meeting, Ridgeview Inn, 6912 Bardo Road, Lowville, NY
  Program Topic: The Aftermath of Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction, Matt Lambert, College Counselor

6-5-15 JLACD Spring Luncheon Meeting, 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, Clayton, NY
  Program Topic: NIRCIL Pupil Support Services, Kathy Connor. Program Coordinator
  Program Topic: Juvenile Diversion, Mental health, and PINS Diversion
  Program Topic: JCC Summer Bridge Program (Free remedial coursework for college readiness)

3-20-15 JLACD Mid-Winter Luncheon Meeting, East Hall, Jefferson Community College
  Program Topic: Counselor Wellness: Yoga for Improved Flexibility, Relaxation, and Energy, Nadia Garib
  Program Topic: Professional Development Opportunities for Growth & Leadership, Dr. Terrance Harris,

12-5-14 JLACD Holiday Luncheon Meeting, The Commons at Dillenbeck Corners, Fort Drum, NY
  Program Topic: Emotional Development & Attachment in Youth, Dr. Sam Rubenzahl, Psychologist
  Program Topic: Jefferson County Drug Court Program Update, Jennifer Hudson-Mosher, JCDC Coordinator

9-26-14 JLACD Fall Luncheon Meeting, Maggie’s on the River, Watertown, NY
  Program Topic: Children’s Home of Jefferson County Respite Program Update, Jane Bumgarner & Michele Monnat
  Program Topic: Credo Community Centers Mental Health Clinic Update, Caryn White
  Program Topic: JCC Nursing Program Admissions Requirement Update, Lisa Cooley

6-6-14 JLACD Year-end Luncheon Meeting, Tug Hill Vineyards, Lowville, NY
  Program Topic: Play Therapy Applications
  Program Topic: JCC Summer Bridge Program (Free remedial coursework for college readiness)
  Program Topic: JCC Agri-Business Program Update