

MASCA's Annual Fall Professional Development Day

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - Assumption University - 8:00-3:00 PM

Tsotsis Family Academic Center (TFAC) Ballroom

Building Connection, Resilience, and Belonging for Boys and Transgender Students

- Identify key factors that influence connection, resilience, and a sense of belonging among boys and transgender students in school settings.
- Recognize barriers to belonging and engagement, including social, cultural, school-based, and identity-related factors that may affect students' experiences and access to support.
- Apply school counseling strategies and practices that foster meaningful relationships, strengthen student resilience, and create more inclusive and supportive school environments.
- Develop actionable approaches for partnering with students, families, educators, and school communities to increase connection, belonging, and access to appropriate supports.

Time	Topic/Speaker	Updated 11-2-26
8:00-8:30 AM	Breakfast and Check-In	
8:30-9:30 AM (60 MIN)	**Opening & Plenary Speaker** ❖ Bob Bardwell, Executive DIrector, MASCA ❖ Dr. Katie Moulton, Associate Vice President for Enrollment, Assumption University ❖ Lea Christo, Professor of Practice, School Counseling Program, Assumption University ❖ Keynote Speaker - Henry Wan, School Counselor, Harrington Elementary School, Lexington & 2026 MA School Counselor of the Year	
9:30-9:45 (15 MIN)	***Transition Break***	
	STRAND A - Supporting Boys	**STRAND B - Supporting Transgender students**
9:45-10:45 AM (60 MIN)	❖ Setting the Table - Current data and research on the state of boys, particularly related to schools and sharing survey results our 2025 survey, what is working, what are the challenges - ***Tom Schiff, Ed.D.***	❖ Guidance on Gender Identity - An overview of the MA guidance on gender identity, with a focus on name/record changes, restrooms/locker rooms, and confidentiality - ***Landon Callahan***, MA DESE, Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students
10:45-11:00 AM (15 MIN)	***Transition Break***	
11:00-12:00 PM (60 MIN)	❖ ***Practitioner panel***- *school counselors doing the work - What has worked? - with boys and systemic. What are some challenges? moderated by* ***Tom Schiff, Ed.D.***	❖ Intersectionality- How do student's various overlapping identities shape their school experiences? What does the current data show us about the intersections between transgender identities and race - Presenters, MA DESE, Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students & **Elijah Oyenuga**

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12:00-12:45 PM (45 MIN)	**Lunch**	
12:45-1:45 PM (60 MIN)	❖ *Student Voice Panel - TBA*	❖ Student panel - TBA
1:45-1:50 (5 MIN)	***Transition Break***	
1:50-2:50 PM (60 MIN)	❖ *Action Planning/Next Steps - Individual and systemic actions that counselors can do in their schools/districts/communities - Presenter:* ***Tom Schiff, Ed.D.***	❖ Family Engagement for Transgender and Nonbinary Students -This interactive session will provide participants with the opportunity to work through case studies related to supporting transgender and nonbinary students and their families. Participants will discuss the various ways in which school counselors can make connections with families and caregivers, while balancing student confidentiality.- Presenters, MA DESE, Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students
2:50-3:00 PM (10 MIN)	**Closing Remarks & Evaluation**	
After 3:00 PM	**Optional Campus Tour**	

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