



MSCA Monday Memo: August 19, 2024

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer break! As the 2024-2025 school year kicks off, regular Monday Memos will resume and will be sent every other Monday during the school year. Please also continue to watch MSCA's social media feeds on [Facebook](#) and Instagram for any updates. To submit content for the Monday Memo, please email Jill Hancock at jill@c2cpro.solutions.

MSCA NEWS & UPDATES

Fall Conference: Make plans to join us for the 2024 MSCA Fall Conference, which will be held at the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach on November 3-5. More information on the Conference, including registration, keynote speakers, Saturday Institute, lodging, and more, may be found at <https://www.moschoolcounselor.org/2024-fall-conference>.

Affinity Groups: Affinity Groups are small communities of members who share a similar area of interest or identity. Affinity Group members enjoy opportunities to discuss shared challenges, brainstorm solutions, identify valuable resources and network with like-minded peers. Each group is formed based on grassroots interest and needs and offers opportunities for meaningful conversations in safe spaces. Affinity Groups are self-directed and led by members - these discussions are open to all MSCA members. Current affinity groups include: Coordinators/Directors of School Counseling, Rural Counselors, Non-Certified Counselors, BIPOC, and 'NRM 25 cohort. For information on scheduling, etc., please [click here](#).

Dr. Norman C. Gysbers Nationally Recognized Missouri Program (NRM) Cohort: Is your school interested in applying for recognition for the 2024-2025 school year? [Click here](#) for more information on the cohort.

Committees - Get Involved Now! MSCA is soliciting volunteers to serve on its committees for the 2024-2025 school year. These committees provide an opportunity for members to get involved within MSCA based on various levels of interest. Overall time commitment per committee is approximately 1 hour per month. To submit your name for consideration, please [click here to complete the interest form](#).

MSCA Coordinator of Partnership Engagement: MSCA is excited to announce our new MSCA Coordinator of Partnership Engagement - Geoff Heckman! [Click here](#) for the official announcement. As the Coordinator of Partnership Engagement, Geoff will work to build constituencies, manage and

improve member services, and lead as an effective voice for all school counselors. Geoff may be contacted at geoffheckman74@gmail.com.

MSCA Board of Directors' Nominations: Are you interested in making a difference in your profession? Consider running for a position on MSCA's Board of Directors! During this election process, three individuals will be elected by their peers to serve a 3-year term beginning on October 1, 2025. In addition to knowledge about and experience in the school counseling field, the Nominations and Elections Committee seeks leadership candidates with a demonstrated commitment and service to the organization, a working knowledge of the Missouri Comprehensive Counseling Model, and a temperament that contributes to and generates group consensus, wisdom, and vision. [Click here](#) to learn more - deadline is November 15, 2024.

School Counseling Ethics Questions

Have a legal or ethical question or challenge? Submit your question via this [Google Form](#) - questions will be shared with members of the MSCA Ethics Committee for feedback.

Board of Director Meetings

As a reminder, approved minutes from our MSCA Board of Directors' meetings may be found online by [clicking here](#). Please note that member login is required.

Member Highlights

We know that school counselors do great things! And, we want everyone else to know! To submit accomplishments and activities you would like highlighted in a MSCA Monday Memo and/or on MSCA social media, please complete this [Google Form](#).

Got Questions?

MSCA members are encouraged to reach out to the MSCA office for any questions at (573) 635-9109 or msca@c2cpro.solutions. Additionally, members may reach out directly to the MSCA Board of Directors at board@moschoolcounselor.org.

NEWS FROM MSCA'S PARTNERS

MSCA continues to share updates from related organizations and partners as outlined below. Organizations are encouraged to submit updates to Jill Hancock at jill@c2cpro.solutions for inclusion within the Monday Memo.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- College counselors and advisors are invited to join [Missouri College and Career Attainment Network \(MOCAN\)](#) for fall Professional Development Workshops beginning in September. **FREE** virtual workshops will be offered with topics around financial aid, career pathways, and college advising strategies. [Registration is now open!](#)
- The Early Awareness Committee for [Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel \(MASFAP\)](#) is offering [free workshops](#) to learn more about financial aid. These workshops are geared toward high school counselors and college access professionals. Topics will

include: the other side of FAFSA simplification, what happens after filing the FAFSA, decoding financial aid offers, and covering college costs.

- Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA) AI in Education Symposium - [click here](#) for more information.

Other News & Information

- [Click here](#) for the DESE August 2024 School Counseling Digest.
- [Click here](#) to view the August/September 2024 Newsletter from MO-CPAP - Missouri Child Psychiatry Access Project Schools.
- [Click here](#) for information on SchoolLink, which is a “one stop shop” to support local education agencies in their efforts to provide safe and healthy learning environments for all students.
- Columbia College (MO) has just paid to sponsor the YouUplift School Kindness eWall - making the platform Free to every elementary, middle, and high school in Missouri for the entire 2024-25 school year - [click here](#) to learn more.
- Lenny Learning, a nonprofit, is offering a grant-funded 1-hour workshop focused on empowering educators with the skills and tools needed to improve student wellbeing. Participants will engage in a dynamic, virtual session focused on integrating practical, evidence-based strategies into their daily teaching practices. All participants receive resources that can be used during school hours. If interested, please apply by Sept. 30: www.lennylearning.org/workshop. The workshop can be held through the fall semester.