

NAPSA NEWS



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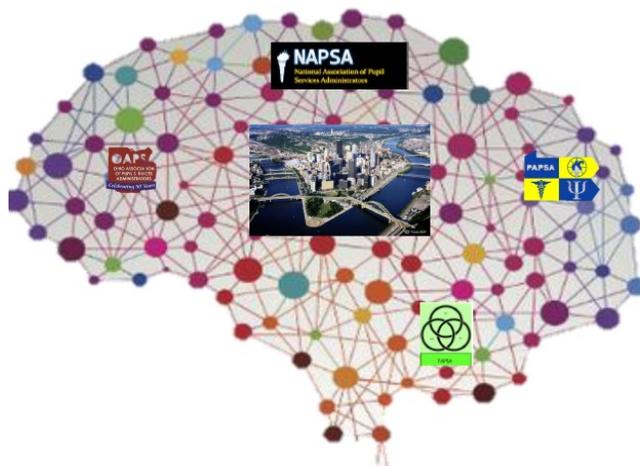
Informing Pupil Services

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October 30–November 2, 2016

The 2016-2017 school year has arrived. NAPSA hopes all Pupil Services Administrators and personnel have returned to their jobs well rested, relaxed and ready to tackle another exciting year for opportunities. That is the attitude NAPSA wants to instill in all our members. Too often we concentrate on the trials and tribulations faced by our students every day, and our efforts to alleviate them through the delivery of quality support services. It is too easy to get so mired down in the mechanics of implementing programs and services that we forget about the successes we have brought about through our efforts. Keeping aware of the current research and innovations developed to remedy the problems we address, and establishing a professional network of people and resources we may rely upon for ideas and support are among the prime goals of NAPSA. Remember, you are probably the only person in your district charged with your specific responsibilities. Does that sound like a heavy caseload? It very well may be. When you are turned to for solutions to social, emotional, mental, medical,

making connections



academic and safety problems, and expected to be familiar with the laws governing each, you may inhabit a very lonely place. That is when you need to start MAKING CONNECTIONS! No other field in education has as much crossover into other fields than Pupil Services. In explaining my function, I often say you have to have a generalist's knowledge in any number of specialist areas. The theme chosen for NAPSA's 2016 Conference is Making Connections. All our related skill set areas have to connect with each other in order to produce effective results for our students and school districts. The well being of the whole student must be

addressed to produce beneficial results. We need to connect with others in our field to be effective in our jobs. This year's conference focuses on opportunities to accomplish just that. In our June issue, some of our upcoming conference speakers were highlighted. They spanned the fields of education, medicine, mental health, law and sociology. Joining them at our Pittsburgh conference will be professionals addressing the areas of Homelessness, Governmental Relations and Psychological Services. Dr. Larrissa Henderson currently serves as the Director of Pupil Services for the Oak Ridge Tennessee

Schools and has served in this position since 2002. She is also very involved in her church and community activities and in her 43 year educational career has received numerous honors and awards. Dr. Henderson has also served on the NAPSA Board for many years in multiple capacities. She is a current Trustee.



Dr. Larrissa Henderson

Joining Dr. Henderson will be Dr. Brian Rabian, Director of the Penn State Psychological Clinic, where he oversees psychiatric and psychological services for children, adults, and families. His interest is in risk factors for development of psychopathology in children, and specifically risk for anxiety.

Cont'd pg. 3 Speakers



Executive Director's Report – Wayne Fausnaught



Wayne Fausnaught
Executive Director



The 2016-17 school year has begun. I sincerely hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy some summer vacation and relax, prior to making your final preparations for the new school year. Pupil Services Administrators are constantly monitoring the school environment to improve the safety, social and emotional health of students and staff. It is vital for you to continuously take care of your health, as well. Because of the increase of violence in communities and schools, the escalation of racial issues, the growth of mental health issues and the

continuous increase of special needs students, Pupil Services continues to maintain a vital leadership role in identification, prevention and needed support services. Pupil Services administrators exist on an island. You are the only person in the district with your specific responsibilities. It is extremely important for PPS administrators to utilize all the resources available. As your national organization, NAPSA continues to provide resources to assist you. The August TIDBITS featured resources for character development, cyberbullying

identification and prevention, non-violent crisis intervention and supporting psychological and social development through adolescence. These resources are to assist in providing students with a safe and emotionally supportive environment, so students and teachers can concentrate and focus on learning. Suicide is the SECOND leading cause of death for ages 10-24. Additionally, it is the SECOND leading cause of death for college-age youth and ages 12-18. More teenagers and young adults die from suicide

Continued on Page 4

See Executive Director's Report

President's Message – Vernice Thomas

School has begun and I hope that each of you have a very successful 2016-17 school year. During the summer many hours were spent preparing for the arrival of students anticipating what viable services will be needed to meet the needs of every student. I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support NAPSA as we work diligently to engage professionals in taking the lead to ensure that the foundational and complex needs of students and staff are being met. As we approach the political season with different positions at local, state and

national levels; this may be the perfect time to provide information to staffs on how to engage students in civic education and practice the importance of focusing on character education to navigate the process. Your counseling and school work staff may be the ideal persons under your direction to provide trainings to make this a timely opportunity to help our students become model citizens. In Pupil and Student Support Services, it is important that we make known our contributions to education and not simply be thought of as providing "soft services" that can be eliminated in a tight budget. Providing violence preven-

tion services must come back to the forefront with the focus of building safer schools and communities. We are being faced with more issues that must be addressed as we continue to work with fewer resources including funding and personnel. The Executive Board and I look forward to you joining us at the NAPSA conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from October 30 thru November 2. We need your involvement as we continue to provide our members with ideas and opportunities to strengthen programs. Thanks for all you do every day that contributes to the success of all students.



Happy Retirement Vernice

- After 18 Years as Director of School Support Services for Guilford Co. Schools, NC, Vernice has retired.

Click this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H6d4bh3Q> for details.



Vernice Thomas, President

"NAPSA - taking the lead to ensure that the foundational and complex needs of students and staff are being met."

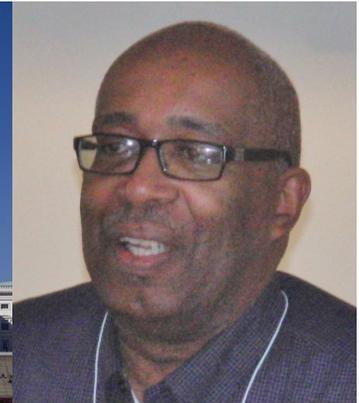
What’s Happening On The Hill—Richard Scott

Richard Scott is on vacation. His regular coverage of Capitol Hill will resume in our next issue. In his absence, we bring you the latest information released from the Department of Education.

New non-regulatory guidance issued by the federal Department of Education for the Education for Homeless Children and Youths:

The Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) program, authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act), is designed to address the needs of homeless children and youths and ensure their educational rights and protections. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) amended the McKinney-Vento Act, and changes made by ESSA will take effect on October 1, 2016. The U. S. Department of Education has released non-regulatory guidance for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youths program, available for download at:

[http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/es-)



Richard Scott
Legislative Liaison

[es-sa/160240ehcyguidance072716.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/es-sa/160240ehcyguidance072716.pdf)

An accompanying fact sheet is available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/es-sa/160315ehcyfactsheet072716.pdf>.

Research and data, including surveys of homeless and formerly homeless youths, indicate that experiencing homelessness can have significant negative impacts on children academically, socially, and emotionally.



Take a virtual tour of the hotel. Copy and click this link:

<https://www.iceportal.com/brochures/ice/Brochure.aspx?brochureid=693&did=2633&type=vr>

Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
300 West Station Square Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15219

SPEAKERS — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His research has focused on the role that cognitive factors play in the onset of anxiety problems. Kelly Vaillancourt Strobach, PhD, is the Director of Government Relations for the National Association of School Psychologists, where she works collaboratively with public policy makers, educational and health professionals, and elected officials to advocate for the importance and value of school psychology, school psychologists and school psychological services. Add these dynamic speakers to those featured in our June issue and it’s easy to see the valuable connections you can make in Pittsburgh.



Dr. Brian Rabian



Dr. Kelly Vaillancourt Strobach

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease, COMBINED. Those are staggering statistics. September is National Suicide Prevention month. September's TIDBITS includes important resources for suicide prevention. Autism statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify around 1 in 68 American children as on the autism spectrum—a ten-fold increase in prevalence in 40 years. Careful research shows that this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. Studies also show that autism is four to five times more common among boys than girls. An estimated 1 out of 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States. Identifying and providing services to autistic students and all special needs students is extremely important. For many PPS directors, special education has become their primary responsibility. Recently, I read a newspaper article entitled "What nominees didn't say in their speeches on economy" written by Christopher S. Rugaber. The sec-

tion of the article that struck me was, neither presidential candidate has addressed how we are going to see the workforce prepared for jobs of tomorrow. The article stated how automation is threatening low-paying jobs and could put more lower-skilled people out of work. Public education is needed to provide more skill-related training, as opposed to waiting for community colleges. This could have a real impact on the education of special needs students as well as lower functioning regular students. Another concern is the number of people who cannot pass a drug test in order to be employed. According to statistics from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, in 2013, 9.4% of the population age 12 and older had used illicit drugs. The use of heroin and opiates has become a national crisis. As support services, pupil (student) services need to play a proactive role in collaborating with hospitals and community agencies to provide preventive programs to reduce this major cri-

sis. In a time when districts are constantly looking for areas to cut and save money, pupil services administrators must constantly be innovative to make services vital to the school district. It is important to be pro-active in promoting and advocating the implementation of preventive programs focusing on the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of all students. The need for reliable and effective Pupil Services programs is more important today than ever, along with continuous staff development that is current and informative. One vital means of staying pro-active is to attend the 2016 NAPSA Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. The conference theme is "Making Connections". The entire program can be viewed on the NAPSA website. I hope to see you in Pittsburgh. Have an outstanding School year!!

Wayne

ARE YOU SAFE ?



If you are a Pupil Services Director, not only are you responsible for your safety, but for the safety of all of your buildings and all of your staff and students. You may

also be partially responsible for the safety of your neighbors and random passers-by. This is an obligation heavy enough to make Atlas buckle under its weight. As staff and students return to school, now is the time to do a safety and security assessment of your buildings. If you are not affiliated with an organization which provides threat assessments,

you can make contact with your local police departments or visit a site such as <http://www.readyrating.org/> which makes assessments and resources available to you. A security assessment has 3 major objectives: 1-Assess present security, 2 - Identify deficiencies, 3-Suggest Improvements. Welcome back to school!

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