

# ASCA Monthly Update

## WE'VE MOVED!!

We are excited to share, ASCA has officially moved to **277 S. Washington St., Suite 390, Alexandria, VA 22314.**

Please update your records.



## ADVOCACY

### ASCA Advocacy Briefing: Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation

Join us on Thursday, March 2, at 3 p.m. as we share vital information regarding anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and its impact on the profession. Kate Oakley, Human Rights Campaign state legislative director and senior counsel, will join to share an update about the current landscape and offer advocacy strategies. Register [here](#).

### Quarterly SCA Advocacy Meeting

Join the Quarterly SCA Advocacy meeting at 4 p.m. EST on March 14 to further discuss the Advocacy Briefing and other SCA Advocacy updates. Register [here](#).

## ASCA U FLASH!

Introducing ASCA U Flash: Professional development in 5 minutes or less. The first Flash highlights National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. [Details here](#).



## Upcoming Meetings & Dates

### March

2 [Advocacy Briefing: Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation](#)

8 [SCA Share](#)

14 [Quarterly SCA Advocacy Meeting](#)

### April

12 [Executive Directors/Association Staff Meeting](#)

# INTRODUCING: CONNECTIVITY



## A New Approach to Mid-Year Leadership Development Institute

Based on feedback received from SCA leaders over the past year about the desire for ongoing educational opportunities, mid-Year LDI has been reframed as Connectivity. The intention is to further expand the Affiliate Exchange's effort to highlight association resources and best practices for running an organization effectively, both in terms of governance and operations.

An abbreviated roll-out is planned for this winter and spring to set the stage for the quickly approaching onboarding and leadership transition over the summer months. Beginning in the fall, Connectivity will be ongoing throughout the year and not isolated to a single touchpoint over the winter months. The SCA share, as well as regular executive director and association staff calls, will continue.

Connectivity will include real-time engagement opportunities, pre-recorded sessions, resources, toolkits and more to address your needs, bringing you meaningful content and opportunities for idea exchange to help grow your association, and yourself as a leader. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

## 2023 CHECK-IN WITH JILL & LEISL

Final reminder to schedule a Check-in Call with Jill Cook and Leisl Moriarty to discuss what you're presently navigating in your SCA and highlight how ASCA can support you further.

[Schedule here through March 31.](#)

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

### LDI AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

LDI registration and schedule coming soon!

LDI will take place July 13-14, starting at 1pm on the 13th and concluding at approximately 6pm on the 14th.

Any LDI registrants who wish to attend the ASCA Conference may select the Delegate rate. The Delegate rate is \$299. When registering online, select member and then delegate rate will show as an option.



### ASCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

#### Seeking ASCA Annual Conference Ambassadors

Do you know someone who has something special to offer conference attendees? Encourage them to apply today for ASCA Annual Conference Ambassador Program. Volunteers serve as room monitors, guides and helpers, bookstore attendants and much more. [Application due March 15.](#)

**The Omni hotel is sold out.**

**Early-bird registration rates end March 1** - \$399 member rate or \$599 nonmember rate (in-person rates), a \$30 savings. Click [here](#) to view all rates, including rates to attend virtually.

Our opening keynote speaker is actor Henry Winkler, and the closing keynote speaker is Dr. Bernice King. Learn more about the speakers and the conference [here](#).



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## ASCA SEEKS REVIEWERS

ASCA Seeks Reviewers for ASCA National Recognition for School Counselor Preparation Programs:

School counseling faculty are encouraged to volunteer as reviewers of programs seeking national recognition. ASCA's recognition is available to universities accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) or the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). Reviewers assess programs based on a written program report that details evidence programs meet the ASCA Standards for School Counselor Preparation Programs. Programs are reviewed twice per year. You can learn more here. If you're interested in becoming a reviewer, please email [ahickman@schoolcounselor.org](mailto:ahickman@schoolcounselor.org).

## RESEARCH

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released the first collection of the [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) since the start of the pandemic. The results are alarming:

- Nearly three in five U.S. teen girls experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in 2021 — double that of boys and the highest levels reported in a decade.
- LGBTQ+ youth were substantially more likely to have experienced all forms of violence and had worse mental health outcomes than their heterosexual peers. While all teens reported increasing mental health challenges, experiences of violence and suicidal thoughts and behaviors, CDC's new data indicates females and LGBTQ+ students fared worse than their male or heterosexual peers in 2021.
- Youth experienced high and worsening levels of persistent sadness or hopelessness across all racial and ethnic groups and reported suicide attempts increased among Black and white youth.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

### CODE OF CONDUCT

ASCA shared a copyright policy included in social media guidance in fall of 2022.

ASCA now also strongly recommends that each SCA have a code of conduct in place. SCAs are welcome and encouraged to utilize or edit ASCA's, which can be [found here](#).

Ideally, this should be included as part of the registration process and sent directly to registrants, posted at the event at registration, and mentioned directly during the opening general session.

If you need support regarding this please reach out to [Leisl Moriarty](#).

### SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Photos from the School Counselor of the Year Gala are available [here](#).

The [Criteria, Eligibility and Timeline for the 2024 School Counselor of the Year](#) is now available. **SCAs must submit their state honoree by May 27.**

Each state/territory association submits one state winner. From the state award winners, the review committee will select the finalists and the 2024 School Counselor of the Year.

All School Counselor of the Year honorees will be notified regarding details about the 2024 celebration after the selection process is complete.



**SCHOOL  
COUNSELOR  
of the year**

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## ASCA U IGNITE

Still Available for purchase and access until June 2023

[ASCA U Ignite: Practical Strategies for a Successful Year](#) includes nearly 40 hours of sessions focused on the ins and outs of building and maintaining your school counseling program. Sessions cover the basics of the ASCA National Model, using the templates, addressing legal and ethical issues in school counseling, accessing free ASCA resources and more. Attendees can earn up to 3.7 CEUs/36.75 Contact Hours.



## OTHER UPDATES

On Feb. 1, ASCA announced that NOVA Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. is ASCA's first program to be named an ASCA-Recognized School Counselor Preparation Program. Establishing this program has been an ASCA goal for some time, so it's particularly exciting to recognize NOVA Southeastern and its excellence in preparing school counseling candidates in a program aligned with ASCA standards. Learn more [here](#).

Jill has been invited to serve as a reviewer for the National Assistant Principal of the Year Program for the National Association of Secondary School Principals and to serve as a reviewer for the Gold Circle Program for the American Society of Association Executives.



# Out and About

Amanda Fitzgerald participated in the National Safe Learning Partnership meeting.

Amanda participated in a meeting with the Council for Exceptional Children about a school mental health initiative.

Jill Cook participated in the School-Based Health Care Alliance grant meeting.

ASCA staff attended the Human Rights Campaign briefing.

Leisl met with individuals from the U.S. Virgin Islands and surrounding Caribbean islands about creating an ASCA division charter.

ASCA staff participated in a meeting with representatives from the Department of Education to discuss the role of school counselors in career development as the department develops resources to inform superintendents, families, policymakers and business and industry.

Amanda met with the Center for Adoption Support and Education.

ASCA staff attended the Arizona School Counselor Association conference.

Jill and School Counselor of the Year finalist Beth Ruff presented a webinar to the National Association for Music Education about how school counselors support student mental health and how school counseling programs can incorporate the arts.

# Out and About



## PRESS

- On Feb. 8, Jill participated in an interview with NBC4, the Washington, D.C., affiliate, about National School Counseling Week.
- On Feb. 9, Jill participated in a Talk Back segment with School Counselor of the Year Gala host Alison Starling on WJLA-TV's afternoon show to discuss the role of today's school counselors and how they create equitable opportunities for all students.

ASCA provided sources for the following publications:

- *Washington Post*
- [NPR](#)
- *Hechinger Report*
- *Bloomberg*



**Cover photo for NPR story**