

The New Counselor Breakfast, held on March 8th at Hofstra University was a huge hit! Co-Chairs Dana Rubenstein and Dianne Guarino facilitated this casual and welcoming peer advisement and networking workshop. Mona Allen, president of NCA was on hand to welcome the group, followed by opening remarks by Sunil Samuel, Director of Admission at Hofstra. Both shared the importance of participating in NCA events and keeping the lines of communication and liaison-ship open between college admissions counselors and school counselors.

After the opening remarks, the participants found themselves actively engaged in round table discussions, where seasoned counseling colleagues facilitated the dialogue. Counselors discussed topics including: first year transitioning, crisis intervention, building politics, parental interactions, and the juggling act required to remain afloat during the college application process (for the high school folks). Although the school counselors hailed from elementary, middle and secondary school settings they all agreed that the role of the counselor is fluid and changing, and it effects how they communicate, coordinate and organize the innumerable tasks they are faced with each day. Our college counseling counterparts felt similarly about the pressures of meeting expectations and learning the ropes within their own offices. Many participants expressed interest in reconnecting on an annual basis as a means to support one another and develop stronger bonds within our counseling community.

It is our belief that these attendees represent the absolute best of the best in our profession-- and after spending a few hours with them it's no wonder why they were the chosen few who landed counseling positions in one of the most competitive job markets in the country! Their energy, enthusiasm, devotion and genuine interest in helping students to grow and achieve was so evident. Listening to them share their experiences, triumphs and challenges were invigorating and inspiring. Thank you to all who made this event possible. Special thanks to the mentors: Donna Joyce, Jayne Gordon, Stacey Davey, Paula Curci, Missy Rose and Marlene Muscarnera for their invaluable experience and assistance.

~Dana Rubenstein and Dianne Guarino

