



# NewsCaster

Nassau Counselors' Association, Inc. - A affiliate of New York State School Counselor Association  
1993-1994 NYSACD Award-Winning Newsletter & 1996-1997 NYCA Award-Winning Newsletter

VOL. 58 NO. 2

DECEMBER 2013

## INTERN BREAKFAST

Wednesday, March 26 2014  
8:30-10:30

New York Institute of  
Technology  
Old Westbury, NY

Registration is free  
Space is limited so RSVP now!



For additional information and  
registration call Joseph Izzo or  
Jason Miller at 516-434-3150 or  
email them at

[Jizzo@pobschools.org](mailto:Jizzo@pobschools.org)  
[Jamiller@pobschools.org](mailto:Jamiller@pobschools.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

For the Counselors,  
Administrators, Parents (CAP)  
Conference

to be held at

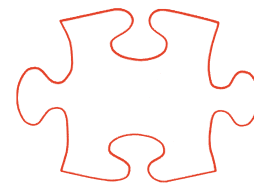
**ADELPHI UNIVERSITY**

on

**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014**

Enjoy a day of Professional  
Development and Discussion

Here's a small  
hint about this year's  
topic.



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**In this issue**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Dave Follick**

I can't believe that we are approaching the holiday season, it seems like only a few weeks ago we were finalizing class schedules for our students back in September. Nassau Counselors Association has been very busy over the last few months. Our Fall Expo was very successful under the great leadership of Mary Marquez Bell and Cynthia Rossi, and I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening at the NCA Kick-Off event chaired by Kim Veraline.

As I write this article, I am remembering the events of one year ago today. Hurricane Sandy devastated Long Island with her wrath. Many of our friends, families and students felt her impact. Our community slowly bounced back, but over the last year many families are still not leading their "normal" life. As the holidays approach we need to continue to help the families who are less fortunate. Our annual holiday party scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> always has a community service project and that is one way that NCA gives back to our local area.

As in every article, I am once again asking you to volunteer your time to attend or help plan an upcoming event. I would love for every member's new year's resolution to be getting more active in NCA. Our students and parents need our commitment. If you would like to become more involved please feel free to contact me directly and we can discuss what committee would be a good fit.

I know the next several months will continue to be busy as we help students complete their applications (just realize a year ago many of us did not have internet to even submit applications or credentials). Please take some time to reflect on the importance of our jobs. The time we spend with our students finalizing their applications is important as we help the newest group of seniors prepare for the rest of their lives.

In closing, I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at our next NCA event.

Sincerely,  
Dave Follick  
follickd@stjohns.edu

### NCA Upcoming Events Calendar

#### March 14, 2014

Middle School Career Day  
Nassau BOCES Barry Tech, Time TBA,  
Tara Bilicki

#### March 21, 2014

CAP Conference- Adelphi University,  
Time TBA  
Gina Christel, Christina Koromi

#### March 26, 2014

Intern Breakfast-  
NYIT, Time TBA,  
Joe Izzo, Jason Miller

#### May 6, 2014

Spring College Expo- Hofstra University,  
Time 5:30-8:30pm  
Michael Hearne, Nicole Betts

#### May TBD

Elementary/MS Counselor Luncheon,  
Where TBA, Time TBA,  
Rosemarie Alario, Jennifer Spiteri

#### June TBD

Send-Off Bash Ceremony,  
Where TBA, Time TBA,  
Christina D'Angelo, Christine Stamberg

#### June 10, 2014

Retired Counselors Luncheon,  
Where Puglia's Cafe, Time 12:00-3pm  
Ronnie Smithline

**\*Call For Volunteers\***  
**The Spring College Expo**  
**May 6th 2014**  
**Hofstra University**

**That time of year is approaching again and the Expo would not be the same without the remarkable effort of our NCA members!**

**Whether you are a student, school counselor or retired member, we welcome members of all levels. By planning ahead and working together, we will be able to best assist our students and their families to make informed college decisions. Needless to say, this event is a great opportunity to create new connections with other counselors and/or college representatives.**

**If you are interested in volunteering please contact Jackie Forman via [jaclyn.forman@gmail.com](mailto:jaclyn.forman@gmail.com)**

**For additional information about the Expo, go to our website: [www.nassaucounselors.org](http://www.nassaucounselors.org)**

**Happy Holidays!**



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**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:**

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COMMITTEE CHAIR: Debbie Roth droth@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us
- **COLLEGE COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR** - someone in the college counseling setting (admissions, financial aid, student services, etc.,) who has contributed to the counseling profession at large; has led, mentored and supported professional development of counselors and has been involved in a broad array of professional activities.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: Meghan Schlosser schlosserm@baldwinschools.org
- **EXEMPLARY GUIDANCE PRACTICE AWARD** – recognizes a guidance practice currently in operation that is innovative, specific and easily adaptable to other schools.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: Dianne Guarino Dianne.Guarino@ncc.edu
- **JOSEPH BRUZZESE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS** – our organization wishes to honor high school seniors who show a commitment to helping others in their school or community.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: Linda Weiss lweiss@rvcschools.org
- **MARIE QUINN GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS** – any student in a graduate counseling program who has completed at least one year/12 credits and demonstrates academic excellence and commitment to the counseling profession.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: Susan Sklar ssklar@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us
- **SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR** – a professional counselor who makes extraordinary contributions to students, school and the counseling community.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: Eileen Connolly econnol@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us
- **STU AGINS MEMORIAL SERVICE AWARD** – an individual who has long standing and current membership in Nassau Counselors' Association with history of active committee membership and leadership within NCA and who has demonstrated unique contributions to the support, advancement and advocacy of the counseling profession.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: Bob Germino Robanthony14@hotmail.com

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## Mark Your Calendars Kristen Capezza, Adelphi University

# NYSACAC is coming to town!

This summer, Adelphi University will enthusiastically host the annual New York State Association for College Admission Counseling annual conference. Planning has been well underway for this year's professional development opportunity – themed "The Transformation of Education" – all to provide the perfect opportunity to gain insight and exchange ideas with colleagues on both sides of the desk.

The 2014 Coming Together Conference, focusing on issues of inclusion, access, and success, will kick things off early in the week, lasting Tuesday, June 3, 2014 through Wednesday, June 4, 2014. The annual conference will follow, beginning on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 and lasting through Friday, June 6, 2014.

Listen to industry experts discuss today's changing student body and college landscape. Explore the future of college admissions and the vital role you play on a daily basis. Discuss new developments, increasingly common trends, and inspiring actions taken by your colleagues. With the NYSACAC conference being held on Adelphi's 75-acre Garden City campus, you can take full advantage of all it has to offer as either a residential participant or a commuter. This year's conference will bring stimulating educational platforms alongside opportunities to experience the culture and excitement of Long Island.

Should you and your colleagues be interested in presenting at the 2014 summer conference, please visit [adelphi.edu/nysacac14/proposals](http://adelphi.edu/nysacac14/proposals) to submit your proposal today!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

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**Director of Undergraduate Admissions**  
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**Garden City, NY 11530**  
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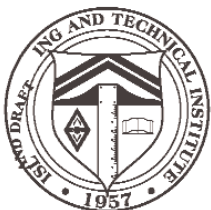
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## Fall 2013 College Expo

*on the following page  
Enjoy the accompanying pictures*

### NCA Fall 2013 College Expo- A Resounding Success!

Sunshine greeted the approximately 2,000 students and parents who visited SUNY Old Westbury's campus for NCA's 33rd Annual Fall College Expo on Sunday, September 22. Representatives from 230 colleges were on hand to share information about their institutions. In addition, workshops were offered on Financial Aid, Preparing for College Admissions, Students with Special Needs, and NCAA guidelines for the College Athlete.

This year we implemented an exciting addition to the "Expo Experience." In order to keep pace with technological advances, we encouraged the high school students to register online for bar codes. This enabled the college reps to use scanners to "capture" the student information, thus saving students the tedious and time-consuming task of writing out postcards. Students were also able to register on their smart phones to produce a bar code, thus giving them another technological advantage in sharing pertinent information with the colleges. We were the first college fair where students could use their smart phones for this purpose and the feedback from the college representatives was that they loved the new technology as it afforded them more face to face time with the students and parents.



As a long-time NCA member I have always been proud that our association has been able to offer our high school students and their parents the opportunity to gather information that will help them to make informed college decisions. I was particularly proud that over 30 NCA members volunteered their time on Saturday to set-up for the Expo, or on Sunday to actually work at the Expo.

Volunteering at the Fall and Spring College Expos provides our members at each level of the career spectrum the opportunity to interact. Counselor education students, employed counselors, and retirees all pitched in to make the day a success. In addition, because of the myriad number of tasks involved, counselors working in middle schools, high schools, and colleges all contributed their time and talents. Personally, I find this interaction between colleagues to be one of the most gratifying aspects of the Expo.

I have been involved in the planning and organization of the Fall Expo and have co-chaired the event with Mary Marquez-Bell for many years. Each year I am impressed by the commitment of our volunteers. Kathleen Corbett handled the critical role of recruiting volunteers and was aided by our committee members Erin Beirne, Bob Germino, , Donna Katzman, Tom Rogers, Gloria Schetty-Plante and Connie Speirs. It is always difficult to ask someone to give up precious family time on a Sunday afternoon. However, Kathy was successful in reaching out to our membership, and securing the necessary number of volunteers.

For those of you who have never attended one of our College Expos, it is difficult to describe the volume of people attending and the pace of events. Thousands of high school students, accompanied by their parents, meet with hundreds of college reps during a three-hour time period. In addition, we offer one-on-one counseling to the students and their parents. At our "Where Do I Begin" table, experienced counselors help to refine the students' search process. The students can then visit one of our many computer stations where counselors conduct individual college searches and produce lists of colleges that meet the students' interests. The parents and students also can attend one or more of our four workshops to hear from the experts in their fields. To say that this is a "fast-paced environment" is an understatement! However, what I find most amazing is the fact that this is a totally volunteer effort!

Our workshop presenters were also key figures in the success of the Fall Expo. I would like to thank Dr. Jacquelyn Nealon, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Enrollment, Campus Life and Communications, Long Island University; Kaitlyn Callahan, Admissions Representative, Columbia University; Shantey Hill, Senior Associate Director of Athletics, LIU Post, Allen Tinkler and Linda Demotta, Consultants for Students with Learning Disabilities and Other Special Needs for their excellent presentations. These workshops were well attended and at some, standing room only!

# Fall 2013 College Expo

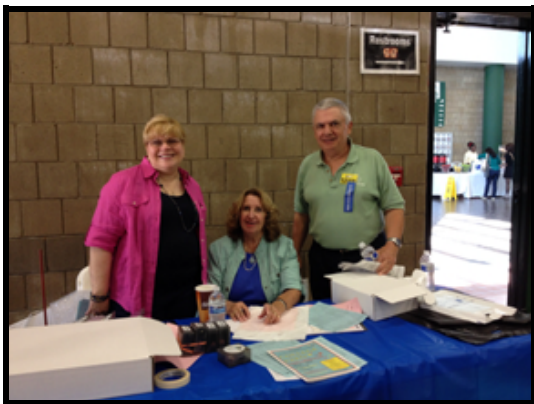
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NCA's Fall and Spring College Expos are really a "Win/Win" situation for our Association. In addition to providing a valuable service to our students and their parents, the profits generated by the Expos fund our high school and counselor education scholarships, and the speakers' fees at CAP and our other programs. So next time around, please consider volunteering!



I am happy to announce that Erin Beirne, counselor at Baldwin High School, joined our team as Co-Chair of the Fall Expo. In addition, recognition must also be given to the following people: Gloria Schetty-Plante, of Laurel Publications, who handled the college registration and scanner distribution, and also the high school booklet distribution, Bob Germino who announced the workshops and handled the ordering of our tables and chairs, Donna Katzman who manned the scanner distribution tables, Tom Rogers who coordinated the computers set-up and acted as a trouble shooter in so many ways, Connie Spiers who was our greeter and coordinated the workshop presentations. Last, but by no means least, Mary Marquez Bell, the Vice President of Enrollment Services at SUNY Old Westbury, and our third Co-Chair. Mary has always given unselfishly of her time, and under her leadership SUNY Old Westbury has always been most generous in offering their facilities and staff support to our Fall College Expo. Each year Mary recruits a group of Old Westbury students to help on both the day we set-up and at the Expo. Hard working and extremely capable, these young people are a wonderful reflection of the caliber of Old Westbury's student body.

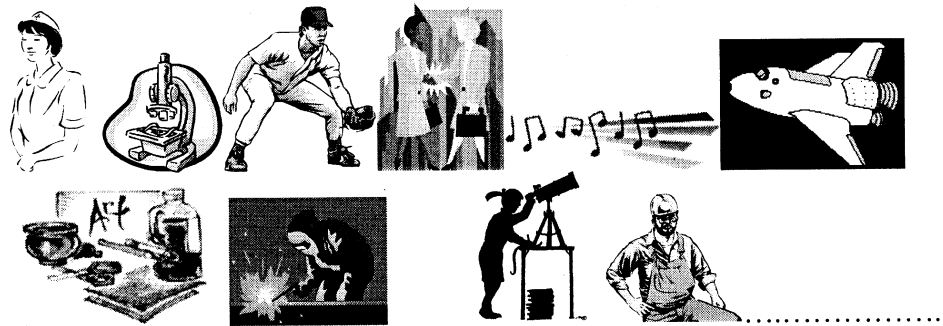
Our Thanks to All!  
Cynthia Rossi, Fall Expo Co-Chair





# Career Day 2014

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at Nassau BOCES Joseph M. Barry  
Career and Technical Education Center Westbury**



## What do you want to do when you grow up?

Career Day is FREE and open to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.  
Students will get the opportunity to experience careers hand  
on and explore the college process.

If you are interested in attending or would like to volunteer  
to assist with the days' events, please email:

**Tara Bilicki**  
[tbilicki@mail.nasboces.org](mailto:tbilicki@mail.nasboces.org)

**Karen Cole**  
[KCole@levittownschoools.com](mailto:KCole@levittownschoools.com)





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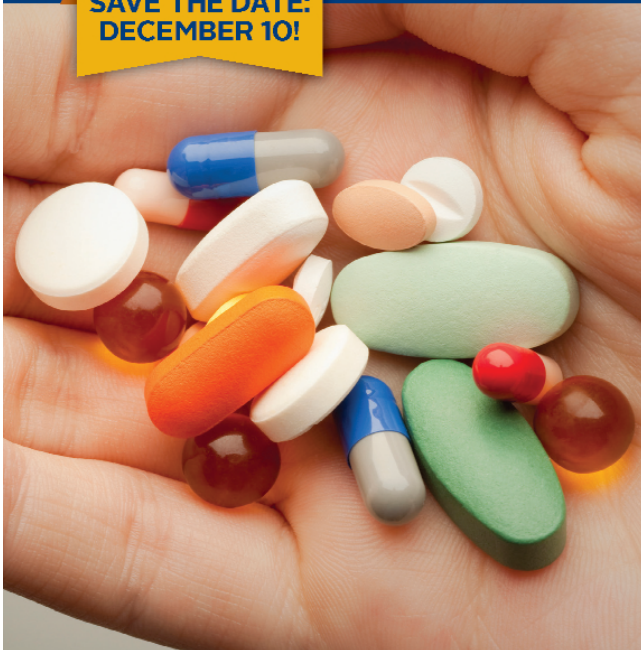
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This year's professional development workshop addresses two topics that are painful realities in the life of a school counselor: substance abuse and teen suicide. Our expert speakers will share their experiences working with teens and their families, recent statistics, coping strategies, and prevention tools.

**FEATURED PRESENTERS**  
**Steven Chassman, LCSW, CASAC**  
 from Long Island Council on Alcohol & Drug Dependence (LICADD)

**Max Banilivy, Ph.D.**  
 from the Pederson-Krag Center

**WHEN & WHERE**  
 Tuesday, December 10  
 at 9:00 a.m.  
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For more information, regarding the Fall Counselor Workshop, please contact Kathleen Magistro at **631.687.4536** or email her at [kmagistro@sjcny.edu](mailto:kmagistro@sjcny.edu).


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## Common Application 4: View from the Admissions Office

It's after 5 p.m. and I am sitting at my desk to work on the Common Application import. To no surprise, I am having some issues with the system, and requested help last week from member support. Over 30% of the application data I exported is missing vital information. Based on the problems that many schools are having lately, I no longer have hope that the issues will be resolved quick enough to meet our needs.

There is no more time to waste. Finally, with a contingency plan in place, I manually edit and finalize the upload. Of course, that is the exact moment when I receive a notice from Common App that my file is now fixed.

When I agreed to write this article on the Common App implementation, I knew exactly what I would say. Two weeks ago, I felt we were one of the lucky schools that would not be dramatically impacted by Common App's implementation issues. The delays and errors were a headache, but should be resolved before we hit peak application review. Unfortunately, the luckiness has now slipped away, and the new issues that developed put all member schools in the same position. Each day, the status of the Common App changes, and with each resolved issue, there is a new problem to overcome.

As the director of systems integration for New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), part of my role is to make sure that our admissions counselors are able to receive and review application materials in the many ways they are currently received. The role of NYIT's Office of Admissions is to offer access to opportunity and help qualified students succeed. NYIT joined the Common Application in 2010 to help support that goal. Until now, it has been a useful tool to simplify and streamline the application process for counselors and students. We were (and still are) excited about the upgrades that the implementation of version 4.0 of the Common Application

has for colleges and students. However, the current issues caused by the implementation are adding stress to an already stressful process for everyone involved.

NYIT has an early action deadline of December 1. Students who apply by this deadline, are promised a decision and a scholarship offer by December 31. Most students apply on or just before this deadline. Each year, we face this deadline head on and are ready to handle the increase in work. This year, we are anxiously waiting to be able to do our jobs!

There are delays in receiving applications from Common App, which translates to delays in reading applications, which means everyone has less time for everything. Schools across the country have had to push back deadlines and bring in extra people to meet their deadlines. Time running out, students and guidance counselors are now being asked from some colleges to resubmit documents they have already provided through the Common App. Staff that put every resource into meeting a goal must now do it in half the time.

I am confident that the Common App will eventually be working and will address all outstanding issues. I see proof every day, and often late into the night, that their staff is hard at work. But one thing they will not be able to restore is the time lost. Whether you are a guidance counselor, college counselor, student, or parent, we all need more time! Let's hope this process gets easier ... time will tell.

**Christine Krut** is the Director of Systems Integration for Enrollment Services at New York Institute of Technology and is the Webmaster and Digital Archivist for the Nassau Counselors' Association.

Waiting for the **Common App** to submit...

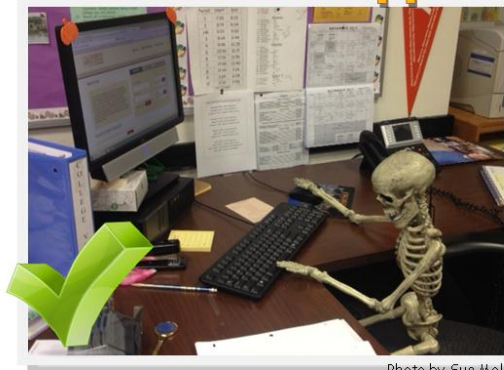


Photo by Suz Moller

**This is SUPERSTORM COMMON APPLICATION!** *will continue on next page*

As I waited on a line to enter the Common Application Workshop at NACAC in Toronto, Canada, I wondered what would happen... There was a lineup of school counselors, guidance directors and admissions representatives as far as the eye could see. (You would have thought they were giving away prizes!) No doubt, this this would be the most popular workshop of the entire NACAC Convention. Why? Because its participants had a few bones to pick, maybe even an ax to grind. "How would my colleagues behave?"



## **This is SUPERSTORM COMMON APPLICATION!**

I wondered. "Would this be a calm, productive meeting or would there be a revolt of sorts?" Everyone in the room knew that The Common Application had major issues to address and we were waiting for some answers. As a matter of fact, there were so many people waiting outside, they decided to have a repeat performance during the next hour, which I'm sure must have calmed the potentially hostile crowd.

To my surprise, it was a rather civil meeting. Here is what I learned:

The Common Application currently includes over 500 member colleges. As the company looked at projections of how many applications it had processed over the past year (3 million applications with 724,000 unique applicants), and with projections of increases of 20% for this year, it knew that it had to upgrade its third generation computer program (CA3), or it would crash. In January 2011, members of the Board of Common Application made some major decisions for the future. One decision was to develop a computer program from scratch (CA4), which would support 15 million applications with 3 million unique applicants and 100 million supporting documents. Although Common Application started developing this program last February, they did not anticipate the multitude of issues it would have today. A spokesman from CA mentioned during the conference this would be a "learning curve for all ... The fourth generation (CA4) is new to applicants, parents, counselors, teachers, recommenders, member colleges, technology partners, Common App and the staff at Hobsons (The Parent Corporation)." Unfortunately for schools like us who use Naviance (another subsidiary of Hobsons) as their college tracking system, we were doubly affected as Naviance had to adapt to this new technology as well. It seems to me that August, September, and October were Beta months of trial and error to work out the kinks of this new program for both Naviance and Common Application.

Those of us who use Naviance never had such issues, even when eDocs was first introduced. We found out in August that in order for a student's Common Application to link with Naviance, they had to enter an incredibly large amount of data to the Education section of the Common Application and then electronically sign the FERPA agreement in order to proceed. It took almost an entire class period of instructing seniors in September to accomplish this linkage: in the past, it was much simpler. Representatives from the Common Application assured me that they would look into this matter, but not until next year.

Students also experienced issues with payments and submissions; many additional issues are still ongoing. Common Application has posted and acknowledged many of these issues on their website and sent daily tips to help resolve problems. In the meantime, students, parents, teachers, and counselors have had to rely solely on the online help desk as their only means of communication. I found out that the Common Application will soon have a brick-and-mortar building in Virginia (I understand this will be located across the street from the NACAC office) and will someday have a phone number to call (we can only hope). As of now, this operation occurs completely in cyberspace.

When I speak to counselors and teachers about the Common Application and Naviance experience, they often roll their eyes. One counselor actually referred to the uploading circle as the "Never ending Circle of Death!" It has not been an easy road. At Garden City, about 70% of our students apply early, before the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Although we have appreciated that colleges have recognized the issues with the Common Application and have responded by extending deadlines, it has not been an easy road. It reminds me of Superstorm Sandy last year, when colleges offered the extension of deadlines in wake of our local disaster. It's a shame that our local disaster this year was in the form of a company that receives a percentage of application fees paid to them by the colleges. This should not have happened, but unfortunately, it did.

Despite the trials that many students, parents, teachers and counselors had to endure this year, I still have to ask myself, "Would we want to go back to the old way? Would we want to go back to copying, stuffing envelopes, the expense of postage, hours of filling out forms?" I think most teachers and counselors would say, "No." It is a shame that this already stressful process had to burden students and their parents with additional worry. One mother told me that if she had to, she would just prefer to drive to Cornell and deliver her child's application in-person!

Let's hope that the parent corporation, Hobsons, backs these two subsidiary companies with the resources it needs to make things right. I hope that next August brings us a smoother process for all. Good luck with schools that have not yet seen the majority of applications pass through their offices: maybe at least some of the kinks will be resolved by that time for you and your students.

**Gina Christel** is the Director of Guidance for Garden City Public Schools and is a CAP Conference Co-Chair for the Nassau Counselors' Association.

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## **Making Schools Safer for Lesbian & Gay Youth** **Depression and Suicide Prevention**

At the Nassau Counselors' Association Elementary and Middle school Luncheon, counselors gathered together to listen to the issues surrounding Adolescent Depression and Suicide Prevention and Making Schools Safer for Lesbian and Gay Youth. Guest speakers, Theresa Bushe and Pete Carney from Long Island Crisis Center spoke about their experiences and shared their expertise in working with students and teachers in dealing with both issues.

Ms. Bushe began her discussion by stating that the second leading cause of death is suicide, followed by accidents being number one. Every year eight thousand teens commit suicide, 600,000 making suicide attempts. Nine out of ten suicides occur at home, and eight out of ten will tell someone that they are going to kill themselves and have attempted suicide before. Ms. Bushe further explained that suicide is a problem for adolescent for many reasons. Adolescents are egocentric and their thinking is black and white. Some want to end their pain and are dealing with many issues in which they feel are hopeless. Once a teen feels hopeless and thinks that nothing is ever going to be better, suicide becomes an option.

Some of the signs a counselor may observe are increased drug and or alcohol usage. A teacher may inform a counselor that a particular student may be showing a drop in grades and may be withdrawn. Physically, there may be a change in appearance and eating habits. A student may also be talking about killing themselves to peers.

According to the Long Island Crisis Center, there are a few steps to follow if you suspect someone may be suicidal. Ask directly, by saying, "I have noticed that you have changed a lot lately and I am worried about you. Use the word "suicide" or "kill yourself." It lets the person know that you are not afraid to talk about this topic and that you care about them enough to notice the way they have been behaving.

The most important thing you can do is listen and allow the student to talk about their feelings. Don't judge or deny their thoughts. Feelings just are and they're entitled to the way they feel. Approach negative feelings to see where it is coming from and what can be done to deal with them. Be supportive by letting the student know that you will help them. Do not offer a quick fix. Most problems can be worked out in time, but not all problems will go away.

Most important, is to take every threat of suicide seriously. Even if you think they just want attention, do not ignore it. The threat may be the only way a student feels they will be taken seriously. Don't take the chance that they are not serious. Students can be helped by offering to go with them when they do go for help.

The second speaker, Mr. Pete Carey, from Pride for Youth, is a suburban drop in for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (LGBT). Pride for Youth, a division of Long Island Crisis Center is the regions oldest 24/7 days a week hotline service. Their mission is to enhance the health, wellness and cultural competency of LGBT youth through education, supportive services and youth development. The important goal is that students have a safe adult, who they can speak to and who is supportive.

Some of the services offered are the coffeehouse where young people come together to socialize and participate in fun, productive activities. Counselors are also available. Young people and their families can receive free counseling for up to one year. These are some of the many services available.

This conference informed counselors of the integral resources available to all youth.

**Rosemarie Alario, School Counselor, Freeport High School**  
**Jennifer Spiteri, School Counselor, East Rockaway High School**

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## Welcome to NCA

My name is Ronni Smithline and I would like to introduce myself as the Counselor Advocate for the NCA 13-14 school year. I retired from the Port Washington Schools as District Director of Guidance, but have remained very active in the school counseling community. In addition to being an administrator for many years, I was a school counselor and teacher of English/Reading for many years. So, if you are new or not so new to the business and need an ear or wish for any type of assistance, please feel free to contact me. No questions are silly and I will attempt to dialog with you as needed. Even if you have no questions, please let me know if you are new to Long Island counseling and where you are presently working so that I may welcome you properly. If you are a job seeker and would like me to review your resume, please feel free to forward it to me. I can be reached at RSmith9560@aol.com. Please look on the NCA website at [www.nassaucounselors.org](http://www.nassaucounselors.org) for all upcoming events and timely information. I look forward to hearing from you and good luck with your new positions!

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## NCA KICKOFF MEETING

On Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Nassau Counselors' Association kicked off the beginning of what certainly will be another successful year. Members of NCA gathered at The Inn at New Hyde Park to network with colleagues, enjoy excellent food, and hear a great speaker.

After catching up with friends, the program began with an introduction from the President of NCA, Dave Follick. Dave graciously welcomed everyone and spoke about our organization and the benefits of becoming involved. He also spoke about the NYSACAC conference that will be held at Adelphi in June of 2014 and encouraged everyone to attend. Marguerite Lane, Dean of Admissions at Molloy College, also welcomed everyone and spoke a little bit about the new happenings at Molloy College.

This year the committee decided to go back to a speaker for this event and to include group participation as well. Marjorie Shiering, Education Professor at Molloy College, gave an outstanding presentation about leadership, advice and assistance in the counseling field. She also spoke about different character traits and how they relate to school counseling. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening and hopefully take home something from it.

Overall, the evening was a great success. The food, atmosphere, entertainment and fantastic guests, made for a relaxing and enjoyable kick-off event. Judging by the feedback from several people, the program received positive feedback. Thanks to everyone who participated in planning this event. Special thanks to all of those people who took time out of their hectic schedules to attend. It would not have been a success without you. For those folks who couldn't make the meeting, you were missed, and we hope that you will join us at our next NCA event.

**Kimberly Vereline, Molloy College**



*More Pictures on the next page.*

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**NCA KICKOFF MEETING** *pictures continued*





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