



# 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. 56 NO. 2

DECEMBER 2011



## 2012 CAP Conference

Nassau Counselors' Association  
Presents:

### Counselors, Administrators, Parents (CAP) Conference

Thursday, March 15, 2012  
8:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Ruth S. Harley University Center**  
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*Garden City, New York*

Attendance at this event is free.

Details on the CAP Conference  
will be available  
in our next issue.

## Intern Breakfast

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For additional information and  
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**In this issue**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
2011—2012

March 15	CAP Conference	Adelphi University
March 30	Intern Breakfast	CW Post
April 20	Career Day	Briarcliffe College
April 23	Spring Expo	Hofstra University
June 12	Retired Counselors' Luncheon	Puglia, Garden City



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Mona Allen**

We've approached that time of year when the leaves have lost their luster and all but fallen and we usher in winter, the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer, when they were complaining about the heat!

Well, for NCA it means we're almost mid-way into a year packed with activity.

The directory has been mailed, this is our second NewsCaster, membership is on the rise and we had several successful fall programs:

- ❖ Fall Expo at SUNY Old Westbury drew crowds of students and parents full of anticipation.
- ❖ Our Kick Off meeting was full of energy, excitement and great food, thanks to Molloy College.
- ❖ LICAC, attended by members of NCA, WSCA and EECA was back at Dowling and packed with interesting seminars.

Most recently, another spectacular Holiday Party, hosted by Briarcliffe College, at Westbury Manor November 30<sup>th</sup>, was the perfect way to get in the spirit of the season. Thanks to their generosity and creativity, we munched, mingled and made gift bags for residents of East Neck Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

As we look forward to 2012, we have plenty more planned:

- ❖ The highly acclaimed CAP Conference which brings together counselors, administrators & parents is scheduled for March 15th
- ❖ A workshop for Counselor Ed Interns promises to be informative
- ❖ Career Day, April 20th, which presents career options to middle schoolers
- ❖ April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Spring College Expo will host over 300 colleges and thousands of eager students and their parents
- ❖ Elementary & middle school counselors gather at a luncheon which always promises a speaker on a pertinent topic
- ❖ Retired counselors dine & "catch up" at their annual luncheon.
- ❖ We wind down with our Send-off Bash when we relax, celebrate the hard work we've done and recognize outstanding colleagues & students.

Be sure to include NCA in your plans for 2012 by joining us for as many of these events as possible.

Tim Pellett, [tpellett@nshahs.org](mailto:tpellett@nshahs.org), our volunteer coordinator would love to hear from you if you have a few hours to help out with some of our bigger events.

And, this season of giving and gratitude is a good time to think about a colleague to nominate for one of our awards categories. Click "scholarships & awards" on our website or contact Debbie Roth, [debroth@optonline.net](mailto:debroth@optonline.net), for more information and to view our streamlined process.

As the calendar year draws to a close, my wish for you is: fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams and joy to fill your days!

And, as you prepare for the frost ahead, remember, "One kind word can warm three winter months." - Japanese Proverb

Mona Allen,  
NCA President



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- **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: Dianne.[Guarino@ncc.edu](mailto:Guarino@ncc.edu)
- **EXEMPLARY GUIDANCE PRACTICE AWARD** – recognizes a guidance practice currently in operation that is innovative, specific and easily adaptable to other schools.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: [tbiicki@mail.nasboces.org](mailto:tbiicki@mail.nasboces.org)
- **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS** – any current high school senior planning to pursue higher education who demonstrates evidence of concern for others through leadership or participation in an activity that is devoted to helping people.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: [david.follick@liu.edu](mailto:david.follick@liu.edu)
- **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.  
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- **SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR** – a professional counselor who makes extraordinary contributions to students, school and the counseling community.  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: [Jlzzo@pob.k12.ny.us](mailto:Jlzzo@pob.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: [robanthony14@hotmail](mailto:robanthony14@hotmail)
- **MINI GRANTS** – will be awarded to programs which encourage implementation or expansion of innovative counseling or projects. It should promote the positive image of school counselors or admissions counselors and the field of counseling through public relations and new ideas.  
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**DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION(S) @ [www.nassaucounselors.org](http://www.nassaucounselors.org)  
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## LICAC Comes Back To Dowling

*By: Michael Hearne*

On Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the 37<sup>th</sup> Long Island Counselors' Annual Conference returned to Dowling College, offering professionals in guidance and higher education a chance to network and attend workshops addressing the major issues of the day. With almost 100 colleges and other exhibitors present for the Exhibit Session and over 40 workshops available throughout the day, attendees were presented with many different opportunities to make their day a worthwhile experience.

While I have attended LICAC for several years as a college representative, it was a wonderful change for me to become involved as a member of the Exhibits Committee this year. In this capacity, I was able to see just how much hard work and preparation went into the planning of such a multi-faceted event. With Amada Donnini from Western Suffolk Counselors Association and Lawrence Quinn from Eastport South Manor Jr/Sr High School at the helm, LICAC was able to successfully return to Dowling College from several years with C.W. Post as the host. Additionally, the conference saw a record number of colleges and exhibitors sign up to be involved with the Exhibits Sessions, where professionals from all areas of the educational landscape were able to network and find out more information from exhibitors. Among the exhibitors were representatives for Nassau Counselors Association, Western Suffolk Counselors Association and East End Counselors Association, stressing to attendees the importance of establishing a solid guidance community here on Long Island.

While many people went into making this event such a success, my own personal thanks go to Claire Mis from Longwood Junior High School. As the Exhibits Committee Co-Chair and the veteran among us, she was incredibly helpful to me. I learned a great deal from her guidance and she made me feel like a part of the team, even though it was my first year on the planning committee. Thank you to everyone involved, and see you next year!

*Please enjoy these photos submitted by Donna Lonas on this page and the following page.*



## LICAC Comes Back To Dowling







## **NCA KICKOFF MEETING**

### **Kimberly Vereline, Molloy College**

On Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Nassau Counselors' Association kicked off the beginning of what certainly will be another successful year. Members of NCA gathered at the Woodbury Country Club to network with colleagues, enjoy excellent food, and participate in developmental activities.

Even though we could not be under the tent this year, the bad weather did not keep us from the opportunity to enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. After catching up with friends, the program began with an introduction from the President of NCA, Mona Allen. Mona graciously welcomed everyone and spoke about our organization and the benefits of becoming involved. Marguerite Lane, Director of Admissions at Molloy College, gave an amazing presentation on the Final Building results at Molloy College. We were able to see before, during and after pictures of the new Public Square Building and the new Residence Hall. Included were pictures of the very first students moving in to their new homes. The audience responded with a great applause.

The committee made a decision again this year not to have a speaker for this event. Instead, each table participated in an icebreaker activity designed to open up conversations about the counseling profession, while having a little bit of fun. Following that, each person was able to find a partner to talk about and share their goals for the year. We hope that they will keep in touch to see how successful it was when the year is over.

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 change in format for the evening was positively received again this year. 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.



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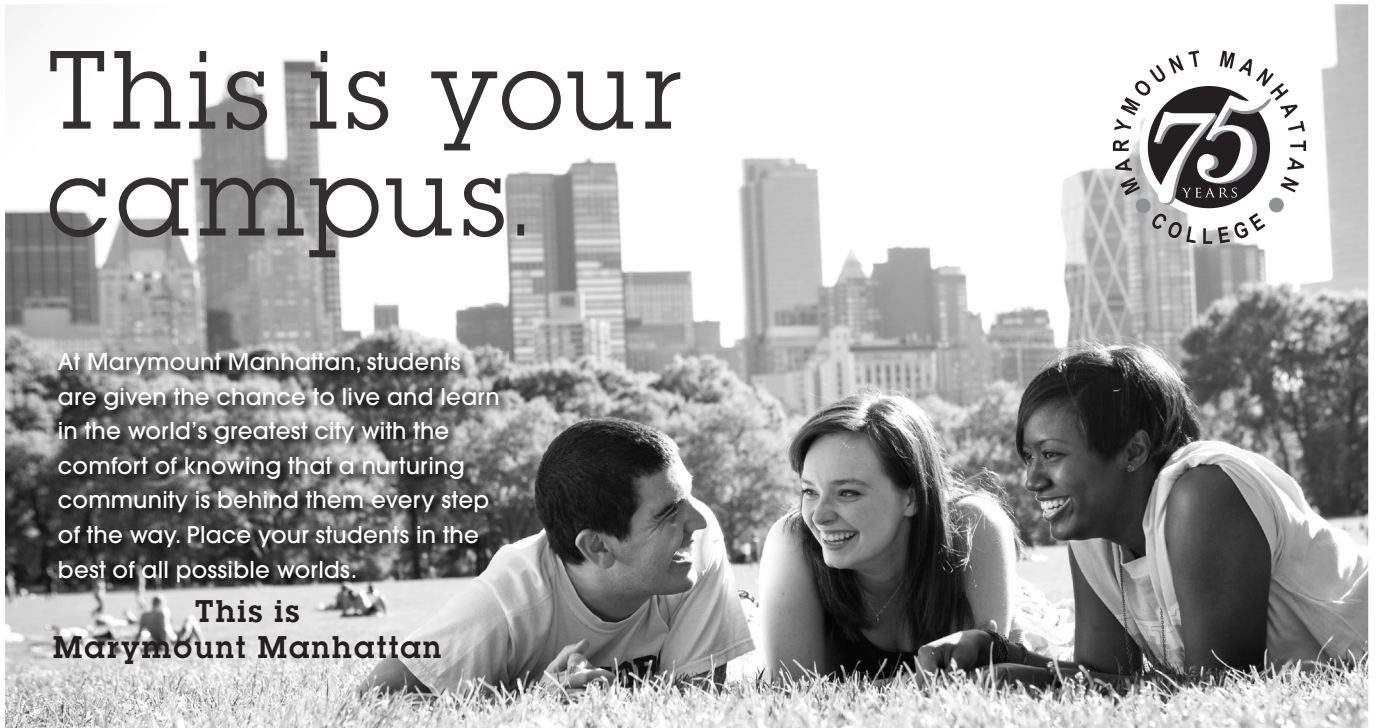
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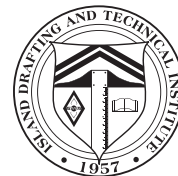
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# SAT fuels anxiety and cottage industry

Published: October 2, 2011 10:45 PM

By JO NAPOLITANO AND JENNIFER SMITH. jo.napolitano@newsday.com,, jennifer.smith@newsday.com

Ever-tougher competition for admission to top colleges has ratcheted up pressure on many Long Island students to boost their SAT scores, whatever the cost.

It's a world of high-priced tutors, admissions consultants and test preparation courses, particularly in districts where academic excellence is closely measured and parents can afford to pay. Expectations are often aimed high and set early. "It's a toxic cocktail in certain communities," said Meryl Ain, a former assistant Smithtown school superintendent who recently set up an educational consulting service. "I know parents who are already putting pressure on their elementary school children to get into Harvard."

Last week saw the arrests of six Great Neck North High School students and the college student they each allegedly paid as much as \$2,500 to take the test for them. Officials at the Educational Testing Service, which administers the SATs, said such cheating is rare.

More common -- and at times even more expensive -- are legitimate efforts to improve student scores for the four-hour exam. Thirty-two hours of private tutoring from Kaplan can cost \$4,799. "A lot of my friends have private tutors, and that kind of forces you to study," said Lucie Galino, 16, of Huntington. "Everyone is pretty stressed."

## Agonizing over scores

Still months from her own test date, the Huntington High School junior already is drilling with practice tests and prep courses. Her goal: a score of 2000 or higher out of a possible 2400 to gain entrance to the University of Virginia and Haverford College in Pennsylvania.

Educators across Long Island said they remind students that SAT tests, which many students took Saturday, are just one factor among many that determine college acceptance. But many high schoolers remain unconvinced. They flood test preparation courses and agonize over respectable scores that fall short of a perfect score. They break down in tears before guidance counselors, struggling under the weight of their own expectations -- and those of their parents.

"It's all over their face and in everything they do," said Susan Hance, guidance department chairwoman at Sachem North High School in Lake Ronkonkoma. "If they don't score as well as they hoped, they feel their goals have been diminished, that they won't be as successful as they'd hoped. Amy Fortsch, 25, and a private SAT tutor in Levittown, said the strains on students have intensified. "Even over the last six years, it's become super, super competitive," Fortsch said. "I have some students starting in 10th grade and even a ninth-grader." Richard Feldman, who holds a doctorate in educational psychology from Columbia University, has been coordinating test prep at Molloy College for a quarter century. He said more students are seeking help, and they're starting younger than ever. "Virtually everyone is getting some prep now," said Feldman, who also operates a business that offers \$1,980 tutoring and speed-reading courses.

## Test-score mania

Originally from the Midwest, Baldwin schools Superintendent James Mapes said Long Island and other Northeast suburban regions seem to place "undue importance" on the SAT. He pointed to the vast tutoring

options offered here not only by private companies but by school districts themselves.

Robert Brisbane, an assistant superintendent at Westbury Union Free School District, said the drive to achieve can be a good thing. His district offers Saturday test-preparation courses and a pilot program to help 11th-graders improve their scores. Brisbane said it's an attempt to level the playing field for his students, more than a quarter of whom qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches. "Our children come to us by and large without the major advantages that neighboring districts have," he said. "The scores our children get here are the scores they earn."

Test-score mania seems particularly pervasive in affluent areas like those along Long Island's Gold Coast, where science awards line the mantels and students with stellar grades compete furiously for seats at top-tier universities. "I think our parent community, our school community, has high expectations based upon their lives and the world they live in," said Jericho schools Superintendent Henry Grishman. That pressure is compounded by demographic realities squeezing the current high school generation, Grishman said. "There are fewer scholarship dollars available, there are fewer slots in the colleges and universities available," he said. The pressure can extend well beyond the top 5 percent of the class, said Phil Clark, a guidance counselor at Connetquot High School. He recalls a student athlete who took the SATs four times to qualify for SUNY New Paltz so she could play on its softball team. Educators in both Long Island counties said they counsel overloaded students to take fewer Advanced Placement courses. They also try to steer students toward well-regarded schools outside the nation's top 20.

### **Misplaced emphasis**

Some educational groups say the focus on SAT scores is misplaced. They point to schools such as Sarah Lawrence College and Brown University that have eliminated or reduced requirements for SATs and other standardized tests. "It's way overused, and it's misused," said Lloyd Thacker, a former guidance counselor who is now executive director of the Education Conservancy, a Portland, Ore., admissions reform group. "Cramming for the SAT is not going to help you be a better student." Just how admissions officers balance test scores, grades, extracurricular activities and application essays remains something of a mystery. Thacker said colleges should talk publicly about how they select students. A number of Ivy League universities declined to talk with Newsday reporters about the process. Robert Hornsby, a spokesman for Columbia University, wouldn't discuss admissions in detail but said in a statement that the process was "a 'holistic' one" that considers personal statements and teacher recommendations along with standardized testing and grades.

Still, some parents feel that preparing for the SAT -- just like getting good grades -- can only help their kids navigate the economic uncertainty that awaits after college. "They are aware there are less jobs now for more candidates," said Jeff Isaacson of Plainview, whose daughter, Laura, studies with Fortsch. "It is about getting to where they want to be."

With Joie Tyrrell  
and John Hildebrand

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## Fall 2011 College Expo

*on the following three pages*

A record-breaking crowd of 3,000 students and parents visited SUNY Old Westbury's campus for NCA's 31st Annual Fall College Expo on Sunday, September 25. Representatives from 260 colleges were on hand to share information about their colleges. In addition, workshops were offered on Financial Aid, Preparing for College Admissions, Students with Special Needs, and NCAA guidelines for the College Athlete.

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 a total of 40 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 pitch 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 contribute their time and talents. Personally, I find this interaction between colleagues to be one of the most gratifying aspects of the Expo.

Since many of the college reps travel quite a distance, we offer them a hearty Brunch the morning of the Expo. Each year Mona Allen expertly organizes this event. For the seventh year in a row, Beth Corbin has been our official "Greeter" at the Brunch. The Brunch also offers both the college reps and our NCA volunteers an opportunity to meet and share information.

This was the eleventh year that I have been involved in the planning and organization of the Fall Expo. Each year I am

impressed by the commitment of our volunteers. This year four new members joined our "Team." Tom Rogers, a counselor education student, assisted with the Set-Up on Saturday, and helped to "man" the College Search table on Sunday. Christina Russo, Assistant Director of University Admissions at Adelphi University, along with Tim Pellett, counselor at North Shore Hebrew Academy High School assumed the critical role of recruiting volunteers. It is always difficult to ask someone to give up precious family time on a Sunday afternoon. However, Christina and Tim

were successful in reaching out to our membership, and securing the necessary number of volunteers. Michael Hearne, from Hofstra University, who served as Co-Chair of this year's Spring Expo, also shared his expertise with the Fall Expo by serving as our "trouble shooter" for the day.

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 seven computer stations where counselors conduct individual college searches. The parents and students also can attend one or more of our workshops. 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 Clyde Doughty and Jackie Nealon from NYIT, Richard Gatteau of SUNY Stony Brook, and Allen Tinkler, a NCA retiree, for their excellent presentations.

*article continued on next page*



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!

In closing I would like to thank the following people: Gloria Schetty-Plante of Laurel Publications, who handled the college registration and the booklet distribution. Cynthia Rossi, the Director of Guidance at Carle Place, and Co-Chair of the Expo, shared her excellent organizational skills with the committee. Last, but by no means least, Mary Marquez Bell, the Vice President of Enrollment Services at SUNY Old Westbury, and my other 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.

The following NCA members served on the Fall 2011 College Expo Committee:

Maribel Aguilar, Mona Allen, Martha Berry, Wayne Branker, Sunita Budhiraja, Danny Carlos, Beth Corbin, Joy-Anne D'Anca, Wendy David-Gaines, Renee de Lyon, Marco DiVeronica, Laurie Director, Dave Follick, Jaclyn Forman, Annemarie Freund, Sally Ann Gaffney, Bob Germino, Adam Glatzer, Joe Gugliemo, Laura Guido, Diane Hairston, Allison Heller, Joseph Izzo, Donna Katzman, Lenore Kops, Ilene Klein, Katherine Lee, Ellen Mermelstein, Chloe Morra, Mali Newman, Allison Pearlman, Tim Pellet, Ray Polk, Danielle Robin, Thomas Rogers, Andrea Stachniewicz, Lauren Sala, Tammy Stehlik, Meaghan Young, Sharlayne Weeks

Thanks to all!

Ann Thompson,  
Fall 2011 College Expo Co-Chair



**Fall 2011 College Expo**

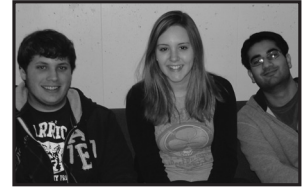


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## Welcome to NCA

My name is Ronni Smithline and I would like to introduce myself as the Counselor Advocate for the NCA 11-12 school year. I have been retired from the Port Washington Schools as District Director of Guidance for the past five years, 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](mailto: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!

On Long Island and On The Internet  
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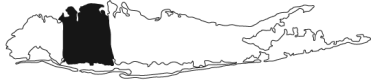


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Calendar - Scholarship info - News & Notes -  
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NASSAU COUNSELORS'



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- RETIRED (\$15.00)    IF RETIRED, PREVIOUS POSITION/INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_
- STUDENT (\$15.00)    IF STUDENT, PLEASE HAVE AN INSTRUCTOR COMPLETE NEXT SECTION

I hereby certify that this applicant is a matriculated student at \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>RETIRED</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	Any person who <i>was a regular member and who retired</i> from a position in the field of counseling and/or human development services is eligible to become a Retired Member.
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PLEASE MAIL THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION, ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK **PAYABLE TO NASSAU COUNSELORS' ASSOCIATION, INC. TO:**

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