

UCA School Counseling Advisory Board

Feb. 12, 2025 10 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

- Millie Bryant- Greenbrier School Junior High School, School Counselor
- Rebecca Camarigg - Bentonville West High School, College and Career Coach
- Melinda Shuffield - Batesville Elementary School, School Counselor
- T. Chance George - Searcy High School, Teacher/Building Learning Coordinator
- Donna Wilchie - Ida Burns Elementary School, School Counselor
- Dr. Odunola Oyeniyi - UCA, Assistant Professor/SCCN Field Experience Coordinator
- Dr. Valerie Couture - UCA, Associate Professor/SCCN Program Director

I. School Counseling Program Updates

- a. **Recruitment Grant**- Dr. Oyeniyi reviewed our recruitment grant that was submitted to the UCA Graduate College that was recently received. The School Counseling program will use grant funds to place advertisements on various social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook). The majority of our students find our program through “Word of Mouth” through friends and coworkers.
- b. **SPA Decision Review and Next Steps** - Dr. Couture shared that our program has received conditional approval for national recognition by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). The next steps are to submit additional documentation for three of our program key assessments by September 2025. Achieving national recognition from ASCA for the preparation of school counseling educators is a great achievement! Over the past few years, the Advisory Board helped with key assessment revisions which were submitted for the initial review.
- c. **Access to Additional Counseling Coursework** - Drs. Couture and Oyeniyi met with the Dr. Art Gillapsy, Department Chair of Psychology and Counseling, to discuss how we can better meet the needs of school counselors who want to take the additional required counseling courses to obtain the LAC/LPC credential. Once we have 8-10 interested prospective students, our Psychology department will offer the needed classes in an online format for our students.

II. Advisory Board Members Current Issues

Each of the board members shared the current issues that are happening in their schools. Issues discussed included:

- a. Immigrant Student Concerns - Discussion on the impact of the recent “Day without Immigrants,” activity that occurred at some of the schools in Arkansas that have higher immigrant populations. Recommendations to check in with ELL programs within their schools to assist with any counseling issues that may be coming up for immigrant students and their families.
- b. Balancing Workload- Balancing completing SSPs and figuring out the changing requirements for diplomas takes a lot of time. Also there is a big dual enrollment push in NorthWest Arkansas, however, getting students into those classes and successfully completing those classes creates increased workload.
- c. High Demand, High Wage (H2)- There is a big push to develop Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways where employment opportunities lead to high wages and high demand careers. Some areas, including FACS, will not receive funding and may be cut from schools. The AR DESE website gives a list of the 18 CTE pathways that meet the High Demand/High Wage criteria.

[High Demand High Wage Areas](#)

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| ● Accounting | ● Construction |
| ● Advanced Manufacturing | ● Criminal Justice |
| ● Agriculture, Power, Structural, and Technical Systems | ● Management |
| ● Animal Systems | ● Nursing Services |
| ● Automotive Service Technology | ● Plant Systems |
| ● Banking | ● Pre-Educator |
| ● Business Finance | ● Pre-Engineering |
| ● Computer Science-Programming | ● Retail Management |
| ● Computer Science-Networking | ● Welding |

- d. Resources Shared: Discussion ensued on strategies to maintain accountability with parents, teachers, students, and administrators. School Counselor Millie Bryant shared a No Contract Contract, a Safety Plan Template, and a Insubordination Behavior Contract with the group.