

ISSUE  
**JANUARY**  
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NEW MEXICO  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS'  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# COUNSELOR CONNECTION



*NM School Counselors'*  
**Community of Best Practice**

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**FOUR SIMPLE PRACTICES. AMAZING RESULTS. RE-INVIGORATE WITH FISH! FOR SCHOOLS AT THE COUNSELOR CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 23, 2022.**

New Mexico counselors will be introduced to the FISH! Philosophy for Schools at the upcoming statewide Counselor Conference, Feb. 23, 2022.

The FISH! Philosophy was born years ago when filmmaker John Christensen was shopping at Seattle's Pike Place Market. He noticed a large crowd surrounding a small fish market. The fishmongers tossed salmon to each other, the crowd cheering each spectacular catch. The fishmongers greeted strangers like old friends. When a fishmonger focused on a customer, it was as if they were the only two people in the world. Everyone smiled – and bought lots of fish.

Christensen made a film about these characters and unlocked the magic that gave fishmongers a zest for their jobs. The FISH! philosophy began with businesses adopting four principles to re-energize their workforce. But FISH!



speaks strongly to educators as well.

Counselors (along with other school faculty) often feel underappreciated. The work is difficult, with so much outside their control, from government mandates to challenging situations with students and parents. Cynicism is a constant temptation. FISH! reminds educators they can still choose to

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## FOUR SIMPLE PRACTICES. AMAZING RESULTS. RE-INVIGORATE WITH FISH! FOR SCHOOLS AT THE COUNSELOR CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 23, 2022. (CONTINUED)

care, support, encourage, laugh and love. “It helped me get back to who I was and why I got into teaching,” said Chris Streiff, a teacher from Minnesota.

The core principles at the heart of the FISH! Philosophy for Schools remind counselors that they can:

- **Choose Your Attitude:** No matter what the day throws at you, you can choose how you respond.
- **Be There:** When people need you, they need all of you. Be fully present.
- **Make Their Day:** Find simple ways to show people you value them.
- **Play:** Bring a spirit of enthusiasm, creativity and fun to work. You’ll accomplish more.

The FISH! practices aren’t something extra to do. They’re about “who you are being” while you’re already doing what you’re doing. FISH! reduces time spent

dealing with unproductive behaviors, so staff and students can focus on what they need to accomplish. If you want to see the FISH! principles at work, you can view this [video](#).

Our February 23<sup>rd</sup> Counselor Conference kicks off with the FISH! Philosophy as a single session lasting approximately four hours. In order to get the most out of the training and be able to share it with others in your school, we encourage you to make plans now to attend the full FISH! session.

Afternoon breakout sessions include updates on Advanced Placement/ College Board, career development, social-emotional learning and many more topics that counselors can take back to benefit their students. Registration is now open for the conference. We hope this conference will help counselors rediscover joy in their work.

[Register Now](#)



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS COUNSELING'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022



Registration for the annual conference will open soon. All RMACAC members will receive an email when registration is open. Visit [Annual Conference 2022 \(rmacac.org\)](https://www.rmacac.org) for more information.

### Early Bird I Registration (by 3/14/22)

Member – Full Conference	\$225
Non-Member – Full Conference	\$275
Member – One Day Conference	\$150
Non-Member – One Day Conference	\$175

### Early Bird II Registration (by 4/4/22)

Member – Full Conference	\$275
Non-Member – Full Conference	\$325
Member – One Day Conference	\$200
Non-Member – One Day Conference	\$225

### Late/On-Site Registration

Member – Full Conference	\$325
Non-Member – Full Conference	\$375
Member – One Day Conference	\$225
Non-Member – One Day Conference	\$275

The Rocky Mountain Association for College Admissions Counseling (RMACAC) Annual Conference is back! This year, Albuquerque will host the RMACAC Rising event scheduled for April 25-27, 2022.

The conference is for all high school counselors, college admission professionals, independent education consultants, college and career counselors, and anyone who works with students going through the college search and admissions processes.

## EXCITING NEWS FROM RMACAC

The Rocky Mountain Association for College Admissions Counseling (RMACAC) has exciting news in 2022. Now as part of your RMACAC membership, you have free access to a National College Attainment Network (NCAN) membership. This gives you access to resources, events, and webinars that NCAN provides for professionals in the post-secondary counseling community.

NCAN's mission is to build, strengthen, and empower communities and stakeholders to close equity gaps in post-secondary attainment for all students. NCAN hosts many advocacy events to help open more doors for our students.

If you are not yet a member of RMACAC, this free benefit is another great reason to join. Remember that membership for **public high school counselors is free**. Click [Join or Renew Membership](#) to join.

Please contact Stephanie Brazinsky at [stephanie\\_brazinsky@psk12.net](mailto:stephanie_brazinsky@psk12.net) if you have questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY 18 AND FEBRUARY 14, 2022

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. – Eric Sheninger PLC – See page 6 of this newsletter for additional details. [Learn More and Register](#)

### JANUARY 19, 2022

- 3:00 p.m. – Counselor Community Monthly Meeting - [Learn More](#)

### JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2022

- 9:00-10:30 a.m. – Keith Matheny PLC – See page 6 of this newsletter for additional details. [Learn More and Register](#)

# ERIC SHENINGER AND KEETH MATHENY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

We are excited to announce the scheduling of two nationally renowned speakers for upcoming PLC sessions.

**Tuesday, January 18  
and Monday,  
February 14 from  
9:00-10:00 a.m.**



**Tuesday, January 25  
and Tuesday,  
February 1 from  
at 9:00-10:30 a.m.**



Renowned educator [Eric Sheninger](#), Associate Partner of the International Center for Leadership in Education and author of *Disruptive Thinking*, shares strategies for addressing the needs of learners in today’s uncertain world. This is critically important as educators and counselors are working feverishly to ascertain the impact of COVID on learners while simultaneously meeting their academic and non-academic needs. [Learn More and Register](#)

[R. Keeth Matheny](#), The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning’s 2021 recipient of the Mary Utne O’Brien Award for Excellence in Expanding the Evidence-Based Practice of Social and Emotional Learning, returns to provide additional strategies to help you further support the integration of Social Emotional Learning so the needs of the whole child are met and students thrive. [Learn More and Register](#)

## CONTACT US

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CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT WEBSITE

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[NM SCHOOL COUNSELORS COMMUNITY RESOURCE SITE](#)

## NM 2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCES PLATFORM: FOCUS WILL BE ON INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION

The New Mexico 2022 Teacher of the Year, Lorynn Guerrero, will focus on expanding pathways to graduation to create a more individualized experience during her one-year tenure representing the state's teaching profession, which began January 1, 2022.

"The traditional pathway can't be the only pathway," the high school teacher from Las Cruces said. "I didn't really understand before, but my students face so many obstacles. Parenting is just one. They are working jobs to help support their families, and then the only car for a family of seven breaks down. Listening to my students' stories made me realize it doesn't matter when you get your high school diploma as long as you get it."

Guerrero started a program to help teen parents stay in school at New America School-Las Cruces, where she teaches English Language Arts. She would like to see more programs implemented across New Mexico to help students overcome obstacles to graduation.

Guerrero began her career in 2006 in Hatch, where she taught both middle and high school students. She joined Organ Mountain High in Las Cruces Public Schools in 2012, then moved to the state-chartered New America School-Las Cruces, where 97% of the students are economically disadvantaged.

Guerrero succeeded 2021 Teacher of the Year Alisa Cooper de Uribe, a teacher at New Mexico International School in Albuquerque. "I am very pleased and honored to see Lorynn representing New Mexican teachers this coming year, especially given these historic times. She is knowledgeable, personable, and persevering, and my

best advice to her is to say 'yes' to every opportunity possible. This is the chance of a lifetime to add her voice to the broader conversation and share her valuable perspectives and expertise with communities of learning," Cooper de Uribe said.

The New Mexico Teacher of the Year award was established in 1963. Each year, all New Mexico school districts and charter schools are invited to nominate an outstanding teacher to become New Mexico's Teacher of the Year and to represent New Mexico in the National Teacher of the Year competition. New Mexico's Teacher of the Year also acts as the spokesperson for the state's teaching profession.

The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association is the title sponsor for the New Mexico Teacher of the Year program for the fourth year and will contribute up to \$10,000 worth of support and professional development opportunities for Guerrero.

In addition to teaching, Guerrero is currently working on a master's degree in educational administration, which she expects to complete in May. Her bachelor's degree in secondary education is from New Mexico State University. She has a Teacher of English as a Second Language endorsement from Eastern New Mexico and an advanced placement certification in literature and composition from New Mexico Highlands University.

*Listen to the NM Public Education Department's [Instruction Interruption](#) podcast in which 2022 TOY Lorynn Guerrero is interviewed by 2021 TOY Alisa Cooper de Uribe.*

DECEMBER  
WINNER!



Congratulations to an elementary counselor from Rio Rancho Public Schools!

The counselor was the winner of a \$50 gift certificate for posting on one or more of the Community Collaboration boards on the [resource website](#).

Each Thursday, we will send out an email with a new Community Collaboration activity.

**Participate to be entered in the drawing!**

(Entries for the monthly drawing are limited to one per counselor per week. Only NM school counselors are eligible to win.)