

## **Pursuing Excellence in School Counseling Services, Program Development and Leadership Capacity Through Professional Development**

In an ongoing effort to improve school counseling programs and services throughout Connecticut, CSCA strives to continually meet the professional development needs of school counselors by providing the best in professional development training and experiences. Our annual fall conference is the only state-wide conference specifically targeted to help school counselors support student achievement, and is regularly attended by over 400 school counselors each year.

In addition, CSCA coordinates Summer Leadership Academies, Level Roundtable Meetings, Student Graduate Conferences and individual workshops focused on topics requested by our members and relating directly to the needs and interests of school counselors in Connecticut.

The following professional development activities are being discussed for future planning:

- Expansion of roundtables to include more geographic areas and to provide more opportunities for members who wish to form professional learning communities.
- Web-based podcasts and webinars to address specific counseling topics and skills training requested by our members.
- An Emerging Leaders program to train and support school counselors interested in increasing professional knowledge and enhancing leadership and advocacy skills in order to prepare for leadership positions in the school counseling field.
- Opportunities for exploring the use of new technologies to enhance student learning.
- Social networking events to provide opportunities for members to meet and share information and ideas with colleagues from across the state, fostering collaboration, collegiality, and mutual personal and professional support.
- Ongoing website enhancement and development to include information on current legislative trends, research, educational and instructional topics, and best practices.

Ideas and suggestions from our members are always welcomed. Please contact us to discuss ways in which CSCA can continue to offer the best in professional development and support for its members.