Connecticut School Counselor Association
End-of-year Report
2018-2019

Prepared by: Virginia A. DeLong, Chairman of the Board

The calendar year 2018-2019 has been another very successful year for the Connecticut School Counselor Association. In September we kicked off the year with our annual Leadership Development held at Southern Connecticut State University for our Board of Directors and Governing Board members. We spent the day as a board working on revising our vision statement, setting goals and learning our new roles on the board. It was a long and exhausting day, but we accomplished so much. In September our first governing board meeting was held at Cheshire High School where we continued to work on our goals for the year and discuss the events that we hoped would take place. Throughout the year the members of the board have worked to plan some fantastic professional development and to bring school counselors from across the state together to network with one another. It was another very busy legislative season as we spent many hours meeting with legislators at the capitol and testifying before committees. On our behalf legislators put forth legislation that would recommend that all districts in Connecticut have Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. Senate Bill 956 moved forward passing unanimously in both the Senate and the House finally being put into law with the Governor’s signature in June. P.A. 19-63 An Act Concerning Guidelines for a Comprehensive School Counselor Program is now CT law. In April we held our 2nd Awards Gala to honor our School Counselor of the Year, Joy Squitieri of John Read Middle School in Redding, CT as well as our other award winners for Student Program of the Year, Internship Supervisor of the Year and Intern of the Year. Our Chairman of the Board was also honored with the CSCA Service award. In May we held our annual conference at the University of Hartford - “School Counselors Make Connections” with Mark Scharenbroich author of “Nice Bike” as our keynote speaker inspiring all of us with his talk about making connections. This year the Graduate Student Committee planned Grad Student events at our conference to help give them special workshops geared towards them. It certainly has been a busy year. This year’s CSCA board has really worked together in order to best represent school counseling in the State of Connecticut. We are already looking forward to the 2019-2020 year!

~ Virginia A. DeLong, Chairman

2018-2019 Accomplishments:

★ The Chairman of the Board, 3 Directors, Secretary, Treasurer and One Governing Board member at large attended the ASCA Leadership Development Institute in Los Angeles, CA. Two members also attend the ASCA Conference that followed.
★ CSCA Board of Directors meeting held (August)
★ CSCA Leadership Development Institute for Board members held at SCSU (September)
★ Hartford County Social Hour at the Artisan (September)
★ CSCA members participated in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention walk in East Hartford, raising over $1,500 (September)
★ CSCA Board of Directors Meeting held via Zoom (October)
★ CSCA Awards Gala to honor 2018 SCOY & Other Award winners @ Elaine’s in Wethersfield (October)
★ CSCA board members attended North Atlantic Regional School Counselor Association meeting at New England Institute of Technology in MA (October)
★ Freshmen Counselor Roundtable (October)
★ Fairfield County Social (November)
★ CSCA Governing Board meeting held at Goodwin College (November)
★ CSCA Board of Directors meeting held via Zoom (December)
★ CSCA board holiday party at Gouveia Vineyards (December)
★ CSCA Governing Board meeting held at Cheshire HS (January)
★ Potpourri: High School Counselor PD @ CCSU (February)
★ CSCA leaders met with Bobby Sanchez & Doug McCrory, Education Committee Chairs and Kathleen McCarty & Eric Berthel, Ranking Members to discuss Comprehensive School Counseling programs (January/February)
★ Virginia DeLong, Chairman testifies on a Manufacturing bill that would affect school counselors (February)
★ Eileen Melody, Assistant Chairman, testified on a Social Emotional Learning bill (February)
★ A Day on the Hill, CSCA & NEACAC talk with legislators about our legislation (March)
★ Virginia DeLong, Michelle Catucci, Jennifer Parzych, Margaret Generali, Eileen Melody and Peg Donohue testified before the Education Committee on SB 956 An Act Concerning Comprehensive School Counselor Programs (March)
★ Jennifer Parzych & Margaret Generali testified in front of the Appropriations Committee to discuss securing more funding for support services staff in schools (March)
★ CSCA Governing Board meeting held at Goodwin College (March)
★ Joy Squitieri, John Read Middle School in Redding was named CT School Counselor of the Year for 2019 (March)
★ Managing Anxiety & Best Practices for Resiliency PD @ Fairfield University (April)
★ CSCA Board of Directors meeting held via Zoom (April)
★ CSCA Awards Gala at Elaine’s in Wethersfield to honor 2019 SCOY & Other Award winners (April)
★ CSCA Governing Board meeting held at Cheshire HS (May)
★ Expressive Therapy Techniques in Trauma Recovery PD @ H.H. Ellis Tech (May)
★ Vinyasa in the Vineyard @ the Vineyard at Hillyland (May)
★ CSCA Annual Conference @ the University of Hartford - “School Counselors Make Connections”
★ Social Emotional Learning Through Yoga & Mindfulness PD @ University of St. Joseph’s (June)
★ Senate bill 956: An Act Concerning Guidelines for Comprehensive School Counselor Programs passes the Senate and House and is signed into law (P.A. 19-36) by Governor Lamont
★ CSCA Board of Directors, Executive Director & One member at large attend the ASCA Leadership Development Institute for state leaders in Boston, MA. Two members stayed to attend the ASCA Conference (June)
★ CSCA Mixer @ the ASCA Conference, Pour House, Boston, MA (June)