



Mississippi Counseling Association  
A Branch of American Counseling Association  
Serving Mississippi since 1950

MCA  
PO BOX 353  
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

WINTER 2014

## “ILT”?? What the heck IS it & why do I care...

by: Kahne Simmons

It was only yesterday – literally – that I learned what “ILT” stood for... I’ve actually been IN “ILT” before and didn’t even know it... okay, I just didn’t know we called it “ILT”.

What? Y’all’d never heard of “ILT” either?! Well, if you know me, you know I’m ALL about sharing “fun facts”!

“ILT” – **Institute for Leadership Training**, is an annual event MCA hosts for upcoming MCA leaders. Before you say, “oh, THAAAT!”, there’s some pretty cool stuff coming out of this year’s “ILT”! Heck, I wasn’t even there and I’m excited about what’s coming round the MCA bend.

We live in a sound-bite society, so here’s some “bite”-sized MCA nuggets for you to salivate over... (Pavlovian reference)

### **New MCA WEBSITE:**

Member’s ONLY “chat” pages for social networking  
Member’s ONLY “forum” pages for professional networking  
Plus, it’s looking great!! Good job “ILT”!!

**Edgy 2014 MCA CONFERENCE...** is in the works.

Theme: “Crisis & Opportunity”  
Tracks designed for YOUR learning style  
Professional training in exciting, engaging formats on topics you can use! (*I’m likin’ that...*)

**Essential CONFERENCE SURVEY:** (coming soon!)

We’re looking right NOW for great speakers from across MS!  
Send names and contact info to me...

**KAHNE SIMMONS** ([ksondroad@hotmail.com](mailto:ksondroad@hotmail.com))

Include the area of counseling they’re most passionate about.  
You want a good conference, okay then -

**HOOK ME UP!!!**

Ya gotta GIVE to GET, people...

(WANTED: passionate speakers from all areas of counseling!)

CALL FOR PROGRAMS: Deadline April 30th

**FORMS submitted on new WEBSITE ONLY**

So, to recap – “ILT” is... **I**-ntensely **L**-ooking (for high-quality) **T**-rainers!!!

**I**-nexorably **L**-inked (to it’s) **T**-alented

(MEMBERSHIP!)

“ILT” ... **YOUR** brand spanking new “**I**nstitute of **L**eadership **T**raining”  
**GO-TO CONTACTS** for all things MCA!!

If you thought this was fun... wait ‘til conference time this NOVEMBER!

Can’t wait to see who y’all hook me up with for “**CRISIS & OPPORTUNITY**”

**Conference tracks!**

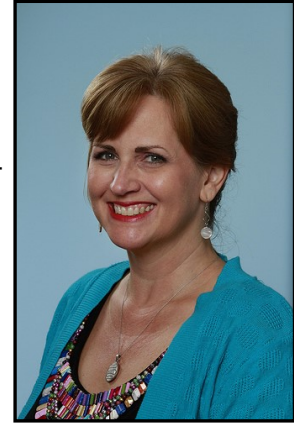
Do it NOW... you know you’re thinking of someone phenomenal.

Send their **name, contact info & specialty area**. See you all in NOVEMBER!!!

THE COMPASS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an amazing year for MCA! I am so thankful for this opportunity to serve you and carry on the mission and purpose of our association. We have accomplished so many goals since July. Our Conference in Jackson was well attended and we have had such good comments about our keynote speaker, the content sessions and learning institutes. Your conference committee worked extremely hard to bring you an excellent opportunity for networking, education and to get those creative counseling juices flowing. I hope you were able to contemplate, strengthen yourself, and return home sharing the qualities of the counselor you aspire to be. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Wicks, has a new book entitled *Perspective: The Calm within the Storm*. I encourage you to get your copy to continue the process of deepening your personal and professional work.



January 14 was our Annual Counselor's Day at the Capitol. Mississippi Counseling Association was represented by our lobbyists from Capital Resources and thirty-five school, mental health, and college counselors. We are still working on several bills and need your support to educate your legislators. Please let Jayme Sullivan or Karla Weir know when you have contacted legislators and their response.

**HB 440/SB2423** – Professional School Counselor legislation which clarifies duties and responsibilities of Professional School Counselors is moving forward in both House and Senate.

**HB 1275/SB 2524** LPC Reimbursement/Medicaid Technical Amendment. Please contact your legislator now to convey the need for LPCs to be reimbursed by Medicaid. Here is a sample message

Now is the time for licensed and credentialed LPC's to be reimbursed by Medicaid. Explain what it means personally to you. You are master's level trained in MS Universities to be able to treat mental illnesses. This is NOT outside your scope of practice. You already are reimbursed by BCBS, State Employees Health Plan and CHIP Medicaid children.

Planning for the next conference is well under way. We will be back at the Jackson Convention Complex November 5-7, 2014. Please check the new website for information. Hollie McCollister is the Program Chair this year. Please download the Call for Programs and return prior to April 30 in order for your program to be considered by the committee.

MCA Executive Board will meet at the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond on April 11, 2014 for end of the year reports from all regions, divisions, committees, and interest groups. If you are a president or representative on the Executive Board, please plan to attend and share your successes from the year! This is the meeting we want to include incoming officers so they can see what we do at this meeting. If you cannot attend, please make sure to send your report and a voting representative so we may conduct our business meeting.

It is a pleasure to serve such an excellent group of leaders! Thank you for all you do for your students, clients and each other every day! You truly exemplify our theme this year – Excellence in Counseling: Authenticity, Compassion, and Advocacy!



*left to right, Cyndi Hogue Elementary VP, Crystal Brewer President-Elect-Elect, Katie Mayo Secretary, Leigh McCarty High School VP, and Julia Taylor, speaker for the MSCA spring meeting*

## MSCA SPRING MEETING UPDATE

The Spring Meeting of the Mississippi School Counselors Association (MSCA) took place on February 21, 2014 in Starkville, MS. Julia V. Taylor served as the keynote speaker. Her topic for the morning session was: Growing Up Girl: Empowering Girls to Resist Societal Pressures, Fight Unrealistic Media Standards, and Develop a Healthy Body Image. She then presented an afternoon session on Technology Tools for a Comprehensive School Counseling Program.

Also at the meeting, MSCA elected new officers at the meeting. Incoming officers are:

Past President- Jessica Hubbard  
 President- Doug Copeland  
 President Elect- Crystal Brewer  
 High School VP- Leigh McCarty  
 Middle School VP Bora Bedford  
 Elementary VP- Cyndi Hogue  
 Secretary-Katie Mayo  
 Treasurer- Wayne Richey

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

March 22, 2014, MAMCD Conference, Jackson, MS

March 26 - 30, 2014 ACA Annual Conference

### April

April 9, 2014 Woodall Spring Conference, Delta State University

April 11, 2014 Spring Executive Board Meeting

### May

May 1, 2014 Emerging Leaders Application Deadline

July 23-26, 2014 ACA Institute of Leadership Training Washington D.C.

### July

July 9-11, 2014 Institute of Leadership Training, Natchez

July 23-26, 2014 ACA Institute of Leadership Training, Washington D.C.

### November

November 5-7, 2014 MCA Annual Fall Conference, Jackson, MS

## CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS WANTED

The Compass is searching for individuals who are interested in writing articles for the newsletter. If you are interested in contributing your expertise through an article, please contact Susan Nicolais at the following email. Thanks for our help!

[susan@nonprofit-growth.com](mailto:susan@nonprofit-growth.com)

## Announcements

2014 EMERGING LEADERS Mississippi Counseling Association encourages its members to become actively involved in leadership positions within the organization. MCA Emerging Leaders are those who desire to hold leadership roles in MCA divisions, interest groups, or regions. If you are interested in becoming an MCA leader, please submit the 2014 Emerging Leaders application no later than May 1, 2014.

### CALL FOR PROGRAMS

The call for programs for the MCA Fall Conference has been opened. Deadline to submit a program is April 30, 2014. Submissions must be made electronically. Handwritten submissions will not be considered. The program will be based on TRUE COLORS Personality-based training. Tracks will be designed to appeal to the learning styles of each of the 4 True Colors Personality types.

To submit a program proposal visit the website to access the submission form.

## ...FROM THE DESK OF HOLLY KROHN MCCOLLISTER

It is an honor to serve you this year as President Elect -Elect of Mississippi Counseling Association. Although I ran unopposed in November 2013 at our annual conference, I sincerely appreciate those that cast their ballot for me, and for all others who chose to run for office. Please consider stepping up and getting more involved in our organization by volunteering to serve on a committee, assisting with leadership training or conference, and/or running for an officer position. I began my career with MCA approximately 10 years ago. As an extrovert, I got to know many people fairly quickly. What happens then? You get asked to volunteer. I started out volunteering at the conference registration desk, was Awards Committee Chair for a few years, Conference assistant, then Conference co-chair for two years. Now here I am serving as your President Elect -Elect!! What I'm trying to say here is GET INVOLVED!! You will not regret the hard work, the camaraderie, and the life-long friendships that develop, not to mention helping to promote and develop our life-changing profession.



I have not chosen the theme for my year of Presidency in 2015, but I do know that Leadership Training during the summer of 2015 will be held at the beautiful Beau Rivage Casino Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi. For those of you who have not come to the Coast recently, there are many things to keep you busy outside of the Conference activities and networking. The beautiful Mississippi Sound, the Biloxi Schooners, the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum, the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, casinos, nightlife, our wonderful seafood, many shopping opportunities, and much more. As the time gets closer, I will fill you in on my theme and everything that goes along with it.

For our annual Conference in 2015, I'm working on a Keynote Speaker that you're not going to believe!! Wish me luck, and talk to you again soon.

