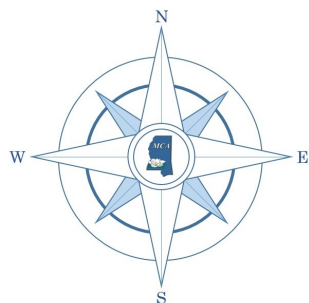


Fall 2019



MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

# THE COMPASS

## Letter from the President

Happy Holidays to each of you!

The MCA 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was a great success! We had a full schedule of excellent presenters and quality content sessions. Conference provided professional development and networking opportunities to 800 attendees. I hope you all had a chance to connect and build those relationships that are so important to us as counselors. The conference committee worked diligently to provide great resources and I am thankful to each of you for your dedication to the accomplishment of all the tasks required to put on a full conference. Great job everyone!



*Dr. Melissa Windham*  
MCA President

### WAYS TO REMAIN ACTIVE AND INVOLVED:

Please mark your calendars for THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020, to join your fellow counseling professionals at DAY AT THE CAPITOL. This is an ADVOCATING day for the counseling profession in Mississippi. This is an important event as we will each have an opportunity to share the value of the counseling profession and its impact on Mississippi. Numbers matter and we encourage each of you to join us for this impactful day. We will send out a detailed itinerary the first week in January.

Your region and division leaders will hold workshops and business meetings during the Spring 2020. Please join the conversations and be a contributing force to your specific areas. Your active involvement at the region, division, and state level is instrumental to the work we can do as a professional organization.

I wish you each the best as you continue to serve in the counseling field. Looking forward to seeing you all in Jackson this January.

All the best,

*Melissa Windham*

Melissa Windham, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, NCSC

2019-20 MCA President

### Inside this issue:

Snapshot of Excellence	2
Upcoming Region and Division Meetings	2
Scenes from Conference	3
Emerging in Leadership	4

### MSCA Elects Officers

Current MSCA Officers include:

Past President, Michelle Cresap  
President, Heather Norton  
President-Elect, Dr. Chancey Fort  
Secretary, Joice Greer  
Treasurer, Wayne Richey

Elementary School Vice-President,  
Suzanne Stokes

Secondary Vice-President,  
Jennifer Box

Post Secondary Vice-President,  
Dr. Amanda Winburn

## Snapshot of Excellence *by Capri Brooks*

Crystal Brewer was recently elected to serve on the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Board. Brewer was elected during the 2019 ASCA Conference to serve on the 9-member board of directors for a 3-year term.

The ASCA Board is a Policy Board that helps drive the decisions and work of ASCA. During her time as a director, she will be representing the over 30,000 members of the American School Counselor Association at School Counseling Association conferences, National Conferences, and Advocacy Events, as well as helping to drive the work of ASCA.

When asked what excites Crystal about serving in this role she responded, "I am excited to have an opportunity to represent Mississippi

and Simpson Central School on a national stage. I am also eager to learn from other passionate professionals and meet school counselors from across the nation and beyond who are doing amazing work on behalf of students everywhere. It's an honor to serve and to hopefully

have a small part in advancing a profession I love and feel passionate about."

Crystal is in her 19<sup>th</sup> year as a school counselor. She currently works as the school counselor at Simpson Central School in Pinola and serves as the Lead Counselor for Simpson County School District. Simpson Central is a rural, K-8 campus that serves approximately 575

students and is a school-wide Title I school. Simpson Central School was named a RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) School of Distinction in 2016.



*Crystal Brewer*

Crystal has been an active member of both the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) and Mississippi School Counselor Association (MSCA) throughout her career. She served as the MSCA President in 2015-2016 and followed that term with a role as the MCA Awards Chair for the last 3 years. She has also served on the MCA Executive Board since 2014.

When asked how MCA has helped her develop as a counselor, Crystal responded, "MCA has been valuable to me because of the strong relationships I have been able to form with other professional counselors throughout our state. I value the collaboration and advocacy that I gain through being an active member of MCA."

Crystal obtained both her bachelors and master's degrees from William Carey University. She lives in Mendenhall with her husband, Jason, and their three children: Gracie (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Kinsey (8<sup>th</sup> grade), and Eli (6<sup>th</sup> grade).

## Upcoming Region and Division Meetings

### Mid-Mississippi Region

Date: February 14, 2020

Place: TBD

Time: Registration 8:30-9 a.m.  
Workshop is 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cost: Free to members; \$125 for non-members

More information available soon. To register, contact Dr. Chancey Fort at [chanceyt25@yahoo.com](mailto:chanceyt25@yahoo.com).

### MSCA

Date: February 21, 2020

Place: South Oxford Campus  
<https://soc.olemiss.edu/parking/>

Time: Registration 8:30-9 a.m.  
Workshop is 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cost: \$20; \$25/hour for CEUs for non-members

Topic: Social Emotional Learning

Speaker: Dr. Kenya Wolff  
Director, Willie Price Lab School, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood

For more information or to register, please contact MSCA President Heather Norton at [hnorton@clintonpublicschools.com](mailto:hnorton@clintonpublicschools.com).



# Scenes from MCA 69th Annual Conference

We had a great turnout in Biloxi for this year’s conference! Thank you for joining us!





MISSISSIPPI COUNSELING ASSOCIATION  
A Branch of American Counseling Association  
Serving Mississippi since 1950

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## THE COMPASS

NEXT ISSUE:  
WINTER 2019  
SUBMISSIONS DUE FEB. 15  
PUBLICATION FEB. 28

PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS  
TO  
MCACOMPASS@GMAIL.COM

### MCA Election Results

President-Elect-Elect  
Mary Bess Pannel

Secretary  
Karla Weir

### Calendar at-a-Glance

Day at the Capitol	Jan. 23
Mid-Mississippi Spring Workshop	Feb. 14
MSCA Workshop	Feb. 21
Executive Board Spring Meeting	Mar. 28

## Emerging in Leadership *by Capri Brooks*

The 2019-20 Emerging Leaders met together for the first time at the Institute of Leadership Training during the summer of 2019 under the leadership of Julia Porter and Talya Straughter. The group includes: Capri Brooks, Chancey Fort, Brittany Galeas, Angel Golson, Halie Gregory, Brian Harrington, TJ Hendrix, Marilyn Johnson, Leigh McCarty, Rochland Porter, Michelle Ruder, Rob'Dreka Shaw, and Dylan Wren.

During this time, the new team set several exciting goals for the year. The first goal was to develop and present a session entitled: *Action, Motivation, Inspiration through Professional Connections* for the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) Conference in November. The description of the session was as follows: "As part of the ethical requirements in the 2014 ACA Code of Ethics, counselors consult with other counselors when they have questions about ethical or professional practice. Come join us for this interactive session designed to help new and experienced counselors make professional connections."

The session successfully accomplished our goal in providing attendees with valuable information that included, among other items, a list of MCA Regions, Divisions, Interest Groups and mental health resources across the state, as well as information about getting involved in MCA. The presentation also met the team's goal of identifying resources

for MCA members. These mental health resources were sent to various leaders in MCA for dissemination.

Furthermore, another team goal set by the group was to develop and implement a community service project. This goal was also met at the November MCA Conference as the Emerging Leaders team joined with the MCA to collect items for Backpack Buddies of Pascagoula.

The group also set the goal to identify new MCA members and develop a mentorship program for them. In an effort to reach this goal, some of the Emerging Leaders passed out "First Timer" attendance ribbons at the MCA Conference to help identify new members who were attending their first MCA Conference.

The only remaining goal in progress for the group is to write for *The Compass* newsletter. Several Emerging Leaders are currently working with the editor in the article writing process for the publication.

The 2019 Emerging Leaders group has been very active already this year in both establishing and following through on a standard of excellence!

If you are interested in becoming an Emerging Leader, you can apply this spring. Carolyn Anderson will email the new form or you can ask your region president for more information about the application process.



2019-20 MCA Emerging Leaders