



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

MCA
PO BOX 353
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

WINTER 2018

Mississippi Department of Health Expectant and Parenting Teen Grant

A huge part of the foundation that helps a young parent support a child is education. Teen parents are significantly more likely to drop out of school than students who do not have children. It's especially a problem in Mississippi. The state had the third highest teen birthrate in the United States in 2015 — more than one and a half times the national average for teens ages 15 to 19. The Mississippi State Department of Health's Expecting and Parenting Teen Grant, awarded through the Office of Adolescent Health, is designed to help pregnant and parenting teens remain in school and continue working toward graduation.

We work closely with pregnant and newly parenting teens throughout Mississippi to provide them with intensive support. Our goal is to keep them in school, which in turn will help the district graduation rate increase and the dropout rate decrease. We provide family planning, birth spacing information and resources to help support the transition from teen to parenting teen.

Our project has been most successful in six of the state's 82 counties where we have teen specialist social workers. These counties — Lowndes, Monroe, Harrison, Jones, Lauderdale and Hancock — are where we have the highest rates of pregnant and parenting teens who stay in school, contraception use, and father and extended family involvement.

For information on how teens can enroll in this program, please contact the Project Director, Krista Guynes, at 601-576-7950 or the Fatherhood Coordinator, Lazarus Taylor, III at 601-576-7809. Or visit our website at: <http://www.healthymms.com/phrm>.

THE COMPASS

Bhutan: Thunder Dragon Kingdom

Jeanne Polk

On September 18, 2017, Jeanne Polk, MCA Human Rights co-chair, travelled to Bhutan with other Mental Health and Professional Counselors. The leader of this Counseling Institute Delegation was Theodore P. Remley, Jr., JD, PhD and Professor of Counseling at the University of Holy Cross, New Orleans. He is a National Certified Counselor (NCC). He is licensed as a Professional Counselor (LPC) in Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and is licensed to practice law in Virginia and Florida. He is licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) in Louisiana. Dr. Remley is the author and co-author of a number of articles, books, and book chapters related to legal and ethical issues. He has directed very popular counselor institutes in Italy and Ireland, and in cooperation with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Malawi and **Bhutan**. This **Bhutan** Institute was for undergraduate students, counseling graduate students, counselors, supervisors, and counselor educators.

Several years ago, Dr. Remley was chair of the MCA LPC Board and served on the MCA Board of Directors. His input was significant in determining the framework of the MCA LPC Board.



For over eight years Dr. Remley and other USA Counselors, Mental Health workers and the National Board of Certified Counselors International, (NBCCI) consultants have travelled to Bhutan to assist Bhutanese Educators develop a counseling program that would serve their needs and be eligible for certification by the NBCCI.

Bhutan is one of only a few countries which have been independent throughout their history, never conquered, occupied, or governed by an outside country. It has endeavored to keep its religious beliefs, customs, traditions and everyday life ideals. In 1974, Coronation of the Jigme Singye Wangchuck took place. The same year, the first foreign tourists were allowed to enter Bhutan. The [driqlam namzha](#), the official behavior and dress code, was elevated from **recommended** to **mandatory** in public and educational settings.

The development of counseling in Bhutan began with Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck. In 2008, NBCCI honored the Queen's work, and Dr. Tom Clawson, NBCC Executive Director, met with her to start discussing collaboration between NBCCI and Bhutan. The proposed directions for collaboration included the NBCC's Mental Health Facilitator Program which sends trainers to international locations to educate local citizens on basic helping skills and how to recognize mental health issues (McGrath, 2009). The National Board of Certified Counselors International (NBCCI) has been collaborating with the leaders and counselors in the country in order to help facilitate development and provide training to prospective counselors. As a result of this ongoing collaboration, a three-week institute in Bhutan was held in the Fall of 2011. During this institute, 12 counseling professionals traveled to the country to work and provide trainings in various settings, including schools. Much consideration was given to how the blending of their, (Bhutanese), unique once secluded culture and Western influences could impact the students' identity and development.

On September 28, 2017, collaborators of the Thunder Dragon Institute celebrated the graduation of 145 Bhutanese Counselors . *Princess* Jetsun Pema, the *queen* consort, (Druk Gyaltsuen, literally meaning "Dragon *Queen*") of *Bhutan* attended the ceremony. Her Royal Highness is wife of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan. She was keynote speaker and awarded the BCC Certificates.



Institute Delegation. Seated front row Her Royal Highness, Princess Jetsun Pema, Dr. Tom Clawson, far right
 3rd row Dr.Scott Hinkle, (in blue) Dr. Ted Remley,(looking left) 1st row Jeanne Polk, 3rd left

During the 10-day Institute, the American delegation, made 16 mental health/counseling presentations. In spite of making presentations and being guided by proud Bhutanese officials through all programs that had recently been established or repurposed, there was time to visit many, many sites in the area.

As part of the delegation, the most memorable undertaking for me was the mountain climb. It's a steep climb to Taktsang, a monastery hugging the side of a rocky cliff 3,000 feet above the Paro valley in Bhutan. Taktsang Palphug Monastery, more famous as Paro Taktsang ,is a Buddhist temple complex which clings to a cliff, 3000 feet above the sea level on the side of the upper Paro valley. The Taktsang Palphug Monastery is one of the most famous tour destinations of the country and the cultural icon of Bhutan. It took a little over 3 hours to complete the climb, but I felt a great sense of accomplishment and quiet serenity as I finished the climb and entered the Monastery.



MCA Winners for the 52nd Annual Poetry and Poster Contest

Leading the Way to a Future Full of Possibilities

Leigh Bartlett

Poster (Category 1)

Primary

- 1st place: Kyler Brown (grade 2) Stonebridge Elementary School
- 2nd place: Lindsey Martinez (grade 2) Horn Lake Elementary School
- 3rd place: Bailey Strawn (Kindergarten) Horn Lake Elementary School

Intermediate

- 1st place: Mills Ileral-Taylor (grade 3) Stonebridge Elementary School

High School

- 1st place: Aaliyah Morton (grade 10) Northwest Rankin High School
- 2nd place: Hailey Layne (grade 11) Northwest Rankin High School
- 3rd place: Amaya Robinson (grade 10) Northwest Rankin High School
- 4th place: Drew Winter (grade 10) Northwest Rankin High School

Poster (Category 2)

High School

- 1st place: Julia Jordan (grade 10) Clinton High School Career Complex
- 2nd place: Ruby Lunford (grade 10) Clinton High School Career Complex
- 3rd place: Alonso Arreguin (grade 10) Clinton High School Career Complex

Poetry

High School

- 1st place: Mariah Alexander (grade 9) Florence High School
- 2nd place: Cindy Nguyen (grade 12) D'Iberville High School
- 3rd place: Kiezer Johnson (grade 11) Choctaw Central High School
- 4th place: Felicia Fortenberry (grade 11) Choctaw Central High School

Adult

- 1st place: Kacy J. Bell (adult) Choctaw Central High School
- 2nd place: Lynora Willis (adult) Choctaw Central High School
- 3rd place: Keona Wilson (adult) Choctaw Central High School

These winners will be submitted to the National Contest.
National winners will be announced in April 2018 (www.ncda.org).
Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MSCA's Successful Advocacy

Michelle Cresap

We had a great turnout on January 23 for MCA/MSCA's Day at the Capitol. I really appreciate those who were able to attend. Some counselors had to use a personal day to attend.

It was a great opportunity to meet with our local senators and representatives and ask for their support. I was very excited that I got to meet Governor Phil Bryant and get a picture with him.

Our organization received many compliments! Legislators and their staff members stated that we are very knowledgeable with what we need. They also expressed how much they appreciate what we do.



Thank you all for being active members of one of the best organizations in Mississippi!



The Compass, Spring 2018

Article Submission Deadlines

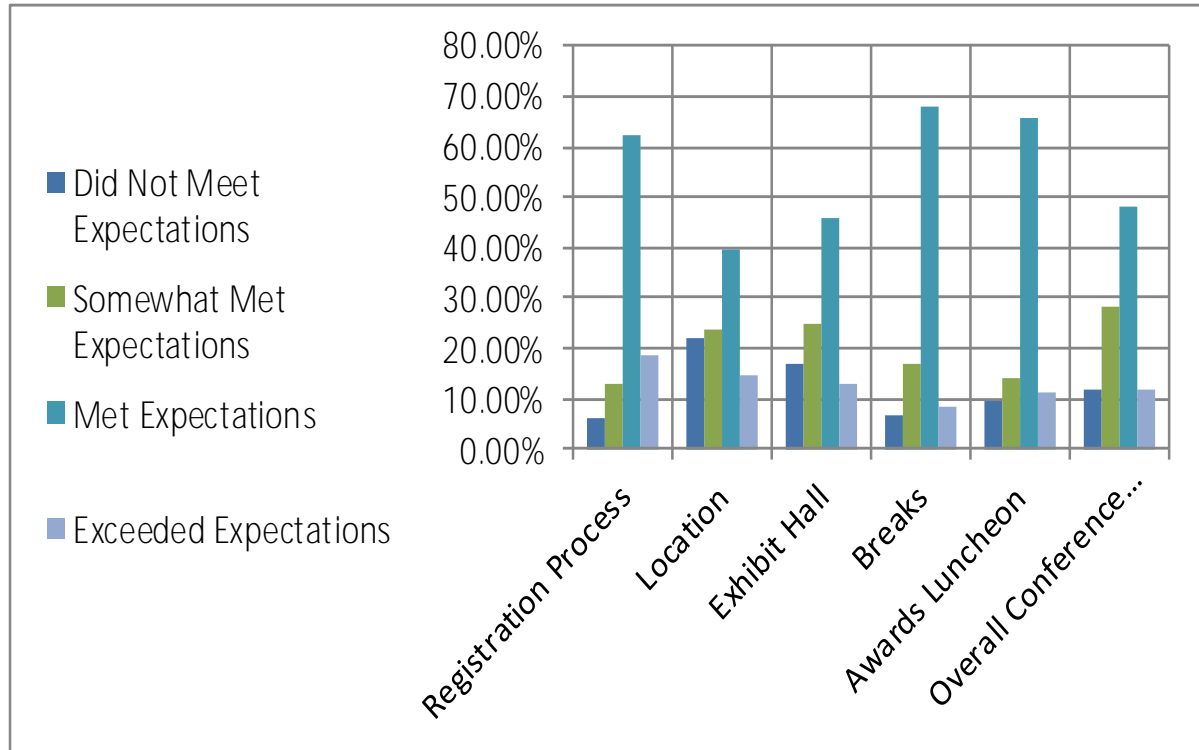
Publication Date: May 30, 2018

Editorial content and photos due
May 20, 2018

Email to susan@nonprofit-growth.com

2017 Post Conference Survey

A survey was sent to all conference attendees for their input on their experiences. Below is a summary of the overall experience of attendees.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

March 23, 2018, PBCA
Spring Meeting, Ellisville,
MS

May

May 23 - 25, 2018 NBCCF
Bridging the Gap Symposi-
um, Reston, VA

November

November 7-9, 2018, MCA
Fall Conference, Biloxi, MS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ALL AUTHORS

We are in need of articles for the Spring 2018 Compass. Please consider writing an article and submitting it for publication. The article should be 200–300 words in length and can cover topics of interest to counselors..