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President's Corner

*Sharon W. Walker, LPC, NCC, MCC, MA
LCDA President*

Hello, everyone!

I am Sharon Walker, your current President of LCDA. Let me tell you just a little about myself: I am a graduate of LSU's counseling program and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, a National Certified Counselor and a Master Career Counselor. I have over 12 years experience in the career development and planning field with time spent providing clients of all ages with career planning and exploration, outplacement services, resume writing and interview preparation, choosing a college major, job transition, facilitating career transition support groups, and teaching a career planning class at the university level. I am currently the Career Counselor at Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge.

Being an active member of LCA and LCDA continues to be a very rewarding experience and a privilege. My goals for this year are to work with the members of LCDA to bring about more public awareness of the career development field and to increase membership in LCDA. I welcome any and all suggestions from everyone as to how to accomplish these goals.

As LCDA President, I attended the NCDCA Global Conference in St. Louis June 30-July 3, 2009. What a wonderful experience! I met and shared ideas with career counselors from all over the U. S. and attended many great content sessions. I represented Louisiana at the States Leadership Training class and was asked to present Best Practices for Conferences to the group. I told them about our Spring conference in April, 2009 and how successful it was. If you ever have the opportunity to attend the NCDCA Conference, take it! You will learn so much and get to network with people who are doing the same thing you are – career counseling.

Your Executive Board for 2009-2010 is:

President – Sharon Walker

Past President – Robin Olivier

President Elect – Joan Gallagher

Secretary – Angela Murray

Acting Treasurer – Robin Olivier

Members-At-Large – Karen Goodridge

Members-At-Large – Ellen Bush

Newsletter Chairperson – Michelle Waguespack

Career Awareness Month Chairperson – Krystal Hardison

2009-2010 Board

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Baton Rouge, LA

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Baton Rouge

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Hammond

Krystal Hardison

Career Month Chairperson

Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond

Michelle Waguespack

Newsletter Chairperson

Success Labs
Baton Rouge, LA

Please call me at 225-235-4590 or e-mail me at swalke02@lolcollege.edu if you have any questions, suggestions or comments. I look forward to seeing everyone at the LCA Conference in Baton Rouge Oct. 4-7. The LCDA luncheon is on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009 at the Conference site which is the Hilton Hotel in downtown Baton Rouge.

Join with me in making 2009-2010 a fantastic year for LCDA!

New LCDA Membership Dues

The Executive Board of LCDA met on July 17, 2009 and voted to raise the LCDA membership dues to \$10.00. Student dues and Retiree dues will be \$5.00. This change is effective immediately and affects new memberships as well as renewals. We invite all members of LCA to join our organization as career-related issues are often intertwined in various counseling settings. Our current membership includes counselors in K-12 schools, university/college campuses and private and corporate settings. Please consider joining LCDA today!

Nominations For LCDA Offices

Nominations are needed for the following LCDA offices:

President Elect-Elect

Treasurer

Member-At-Large (1)

If you would like to nominate someone, check with that person first to make sure they will accept the office if elected, and e-mail that nomination to Sharon Walker at swalke02@lolcollege.edu. Elections will be held in October at the LCA conference.

LCDA Members To Present Content Sessions At LCA Conference In October

LCDA members will have two content sessions at the LCA Conference in October. Please check your programs and try to attend these two career-related sessions. These sessions are described as:

Websites

NCDA

National Career Development Association

www.ncda.org

LCA

Louisiana Counseling Association

www.lacounseling.org

NECA

National Employment Counseling Association

www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/6491/neca.html

SIS: Seminar Information Service

www.seminarinformation.com/

SIS lists over 300,000 seminars, classes, workshops, corporate training events, and conferences offered annually. The Quick Search option can be used to find upcoming programs by title or topic, to browse the category lists to see what is offered in any given locations, or to target upcoming programs by location. Users can also enroll online.

1. Presentation Title: *From Pink Slip to Paycheck: Helping Clients Cope with Job Loss*

Presenters: Ellen Bush, Krystal Hardison, Loretta Swank, Sharon Fife and Michelle Waguespack

Time: 3:45-5:15 Tuesday, October 6th

Program Summary: Losing a job is ranked as one of the three top stressors in a person's life. It often means a loss of income, security, a community and a sense of identity. Shock, disbelief, anxiety, fear, worry, confusion, and blame are common emotions accompanying job loss. If not appropriately dealt with, these feelings can adversely impact the individual's psychological, social and physical well being, as well as impair his or her marital and family relationships. On another level, those experiencing job loss are often uncertain how to begin a job search or where to go for financial assistance so need resources for doing so.

With the fickle economic times we're experiencing today contributing to higher unemployment, it is expected that counselors in all settings will see an increase in the incidence of job loss related issues. The goals of this presentation are to help participants better understand the multifaceted consequences of job loss, explore approaches for helping clients deal with the issues accompanying job loss, and learn practical ways for helping them with the job search process.

2. Presentation Title: *Find Your Bliss, Harness Your Gifts, Plan Your Counseling Career*

Presenters: Sharon Walker, Joan Gallagher

Time: 8:00-9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 6

Program Summary: Evaluate your strengths and interests to maximize your career potential; Resume Writing; Interview Preparation; Networking your Way into Hidden Job Markets; and other job search strategies. This session will help prepare counselors and graduate students for job search.

Nominations LCDA 2009 "Louisiana Career Counselor of the Year" Award

DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN NOMINATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 4, 2009!

The Louisiana Career Development Association is currently accepting nominations for the newly established "Louisiana Career Counselor of the Year" award. The award is designed to recognize a current LCDA member for his or her exceptional contributions to the field of career development. The award will be presented at the LCDA business meeting during the LCA Annual Conference. **(LCDA board members are ineligible during their term of office.)**

Selection criteria (the following areas will be rated):

- Membership in LCDA
- Years of service (at least three) in direct work with people in regards to career development in education, business and industry, non-profit, and/or private practice
- Quality of career-related service such as:
 - commendable program development and/or delivery
 - publications
 - research
 - professional workshops and/or presentations
 - advocacy efforts to inform policy makers or the general public about career development
 - professional distinction such as MCC, MCDP, Fellow etc.
 - education or mentoring of students in career development, or of career counseling graduate students
 - service to the career counseling profession as indicated by leadership in professional associations at the local, state, and/or national levels
 - other distinguished career-related activity or service that can support the nomination

Nomination Process

Please submit the following three items as a total nomination packet:

A letter of nomination. In your nomination letter please specifically address the selection criteria that relate to the nominee.

The nominee's resume or vita, and any other supporting documents or additional letters that indicate how the nominee meets the award criteria.

The nomination form (see below).

Complete nomination packets must be emailed or postmarked by September 4, 2009. Incomplete packets or those postmarked or received after the deadline will not be considered.

Mail or email the complete nomination packet to the address below. (Note: If emailing, please send all required documents as one file rather than piecemeal.)

Sharon Walker, LCDA President
201 Cora Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
swalke02@ololcollege.edu

Nomination Form

Louisiana Career Counselor of the Year Award

*Please attach this form to your nomination materials and submit as a total packet. The submission deadline is **September 4, 2009**. Incomplete forms will not be accepted or returned for completion.*

About the Nominee:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE (business) _____

PHONE (home) _____

About the Nominator:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE (business) _____

PHONE (home) _____

Featured “Tools of the Trade”



Books

The following excellent resource books are available on NCDA's website: <http://ncda.org/>

Family Matters: *The Influence of the Family in Career Decision-Making* by Robert C Chope

10 Strategies for Reentering the Workforce by Mary E. Ghilani

Sweaty Palms *The Neglected Art of Being Interviewed* by H. Anthony Medley

Websites

Fin Aid! (<http://www.finaid.org>)

Comprehensive source of student financial aid information, advice, and tools.

Back to College (<http://www.back2college.com>)

Informative site containing a variety of resources for adult students returning to school.

Job Hunter's Bible (<http://jobhuntersbible.com>)

Companion website to the book *What Color Is Your Parachute?* Contains tips and advice for job hunters.

Please share your favorite “tools of the trade” and we will publish them in our next newsletter. Send your favorites to Michelle Waguespack mwag3@cox.net.