



Mesa Secondary School Counselor

News and Notes
Summer 2009

Guidance & Counseling Department News 2009/2010

Guidance & Counseling, Prevention Programs, Homebound, & Mesa Career Services will reside on the 3rd Floor of the ASC (Administrative Services Center-Main St) for the 2009/2010 school year along with Dr. David Shuff and District Security; effective date to be determined.

2008 Revision of the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse

The 5-year review of the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse is officially completed and the revised version of the Protocol has been published. The Multidisciplinary Protocol was first created and published in July 1995. Since that time members of law enforcement, Child Protective Services and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, as well as professionals representing all disciplines associated with child abuse cases and education and healthcare professionals have revised the Protocol four times. The conclusion of this 5-year review process reflects legislative and regulatory changes in addition to organizational and philosophical shifts in the areas of child neglect and physical and sexual abuse cases. It is a model for treatment consistent with these principles and provides guidelines and a reference source to aid in the investigation, management and prosecution of child abuse cases.

You can find the protocol on our web site [here](#).

SEVEN KEYS TO COLLEGE READINESS

If you're an American School Counselor Association member, you may have already seen that the Montgomery County's school system has published a pathway for students to follow that will increase their chances of being ready for and successful in college. What they've done is pretty impressive and it's consistent with our Guidance Department's goal of "100% Career/College Ready." Check out the SEVEN KEYS TO COLLEGE READINESS [here](#).

Who Sees the School Counselor for College Information? A National Study

A quote in the April 2009 issue of Professional School Counseling really caught our attention:

"And finally, with respect to students' perceived thoughts regarding their counselors' aspirations for them and its relationship to counselor contact for college information, our findings suggest that students' perceptions of their counselors' aspirations for them influenced their level of contact with counselors for college information.

The implications of this finding are huge. First and foremost, school counselors must be mindful of the covert and overt messages that they send to students about their college readiness and abilities. Particularly for low income students and students of color, they likely need their counselors' support and encouragement more than the more affluent and White students. As a result, school counselors must work to create school and



counseling environments that nurture students' college aspirations and dreams (i.e., a college-going culture; McClafferty, McDonough, & Nunez, 2002)."

What does your comprehensive program do to create an environment that nurtures all students' college aspirations and dreams?

Project Diversity

In the waning days before summer, the Guidance Department undertook a project to move Cliff Moon's Project Diversity curriculum to our web site. We encourage you to deliver the Project Diversity curriculum with your 7th graders to help them meet several ASCA National Standards and student competencies.

We also encourage you to read the article entitled "Using Experiential Activities with Adolescents to Promote Respect for Diversity" by Gail K. Roaten and Eric A. Schmidt. The article discusses the benefits of and processes for implementing experiential activities into guidance curricula to assist in developing awareness, knowledge, and skills related to diversity for the promotion of multicultural competencies in adolescents.

You can find Cliff's curriculum and the article [here](#).

Recognizing Byron McKinnon

Several years ago I was talking to [Norm Gybers](#) about the history of the Mesa Public Schools Guidance Department. Norm was asking me about the great work of Byron McKinnon and at the time, I'm embarrassed to say, I didn't know about Byron or his work. Norm remarked sadly, "Institutional memory is very short."

Since that time, I've read a lot of Byron's work and I'm very proud to say I worked for the Mesa Public Schools Guidance Department. I now know that Byron founded the MPS Guidance Department, our Career Education Program, Op Shop, the Mesa Youth Placement Service, the Taking Charge program, and our Child Abuse Reporting System. He was also responsible for moving our counseling department forward with accountability and results in 1973 – twenty years before the publication of the ASCA National Model®.

I encourage you to read a bit more about [Byron](#) and [our history](#) and ask yourself what you are doing to contribute to a phenomenal school counseling program for students in Mesa Public Schools.

A curriculum encouraging Fairness for All Individuals through Respect

FAIR is an experientially based curriculum that encourages an understanding of social injustice (social unfairness), including sexism, racism, and classism. The FAIR program is made up of five activities that may be adapted for audiences of any age. The necessary tools to facilitate the FAIR activities are free and available [here](#).