As we all begin to wrap up the school year, it is important to reflect on the past year. What were some positive experiences? What were some negative experiences or things that we might do differently? How can we improve next year?

As we reflect on this past school year, one of our most positive experiences was collaboration within our departments. We have a wonderful partnership with our administration, teachers, counseling department, special education department, and pupil appraisal. We all meet regularly to collaborate on ways to better support our students. Each of these departments adds their own knowledge and expertise that has helped us grow as school counselors. We decided to implement groups within our school to proactively support our students who are most at-risk. Our goals were prevention of unhealthy behaviors and being proactive rather than reactively responding to unhealthy student behaviors. Our group facilitators included counselors, a school psychologist, a coach, and a teacher. This has been such a positive experience for both our students and our faculty members.

As we near the end of the school year, most counselors are swamped with graduation, state testing, scheduling for next year, and end-of-the-year grades, while still addressing student needs and concerns. Our profession has high demands and ongoing expectations to meet the needs of these students and their families, faculty members and administration. With the added demands and stress of your own family and daily life, this can be incredibly challenging as well as physically and emotionally exhausting at times! During this overwhelming time we can’t advocate enough for counselor self-care. As the summer approaches, make adequate time for yourself, do things you enjoy, take care of yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually, take care of relationships in your life, and reach out for support when needed! We hope that everyone will feel rested and rejuvenated as we start another wonderful school year next fall! Have a great summer!
Student Scholarships

The Class of 2019 graduates may have already crossed the stage, but there are scholarships still available to many them. What follows is a short list of opportunities for both graduating and rising seniors.

Future Leaders Mentorship Scholarship: Rolling Deadline
There is still time to nominate outstanding students to receive a scholarship to the 2019 Summer Youth Development Programs at Georgetown University. Applications for the Advanced Law and Trial Internship Summit, International Leadership and Business Internship Summit, Advanced Medical and Public Health Summit, and Advanced Medical Neuroscience Summit are accepted on a rolling basis. Educator-nominated students will receive priority consideration. The unique scholarship code for Louisiana is LA#1000.

The Gentleman Scholarship: Deadline May 30, 2019
The Gentleman Scholarship is awarded to three male graduating seniors who will be attending Nicholls State University. To qualify for consideration, the applicant must have an overall high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 and plan to attend Nicholls State University in the fall of 2019. Ideal candidates for the scholarship are individuals who are actively involved in one or more competencies of being a successful undergraduate student. See the scholarship application or email gentlemanscholarship@gmail.com for more information.

Got a Spine Scholarship: Deadline June 2, 2019
Arctic Chiropractic is offering a $500 scholarship to a full-time student attending college or university no later than October of 2019. Recipients must have earned a minimum 2.5 GPA during their previous academic year. Applicants must answer a few short questions to apply. To find out more information, visit the scholarship page or download the informational flyer. Note: Students can be enrolled in any field of study.

Abbot and Fenner Scholarship: Deadline June 14, 2019
Abbot and Fenner Business Consultants are offering $1000 scholarships to students who are high school juniors or seniors, as well as students currently registered in any accredited postsecondary institution. Applicants must write an essay describing their educational career and life goals and highlight an individual plan for achieving those goals. To apply or to find out more, visit their scholarship page.

The Silver Law Firm: Deadline June 31, 2019
The Silver Law Firm in Oakland, California is awarding a $1000 scholarship to one recipient to help pay for college, graduate school, or law school. Applicants must be US citizens, be currently enrolled in or have been accepted (and planning to attend) a U.S. college or university, and must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in the current or most recent academic year. Visit the law firm’s scholarship page for more information.

Senior Planning Social Work and Eldercare Award: Deadline July 31 and December 15
Senior Planning is offering up to five Social Work and Eldercare Awards to students who are working toward a degree in social work with the intent of assisting the elderly upon graduation.
Applicants must be high school seniors or undergraduates with fewer than 90 credit hours. The first place winner shall receive no less than $900. Visit the scholarship web page for information about the application process, which includes providing letters of recommendation and writing a personal statement.

**Blaine Barrilleaux Scholarship: Deadline August 14, 2019**
The Law Office of Blaine Barrilleaux is awarding a $500 scholarship with the goal of helping to help to ensure a society grounded on knowledge. Applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA, be involved in at least one extra-curricular activity, and be enrolled in or pursuing enrollment at a four-year accredited college or university. Applicants must also submit a short biographical essay. For more information, visit the scholarship web page.

**Financial Aid Success Stories**

**Fontainebleau High School**
Robocalls, email blasts, and creative signage are just some of the ways the staff at Fontainebleau High School remind their seniors to submit the FAFSA. The school places seniors on the "owe list" if they have not completed their FAFSA by March. As a result, prom serves as a motivator for students to meet their financial aid requirement early. In addition to these and other strategies, school counselor Toni Matherne has found that speaking directly to each graduating senior makes a tremendous impact on the school's overall completion rates. Toni also includes financial aid information on her web page and in her parent night presentation.

**Destrehan High School**
The counseling team at Destrehan High School uses a combination of incentives as part of their ongoing financial aid efforts. For instance, the school gives away free t-shirts to reward the students who have completed the FAFSA by a certain date. In the spring semester, students know they cannot purchase prom tickets until they meet their financial aid requirement. School counselor LaWanna Jackson Davis states that they saw a huge jump in the number of completed applications when the prom was drawing near. To ensure the entire Destrehan High community is included in financial aid awareness activities, the broadcasting students offer financial aid information via the Channel One morning announcements. As of April 26, 79 percent of their 353 seniors had already completed the FAFSA!

**Middle and High School News**

**Louisiana Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness**
The South Louisiana Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness on is happening on October 1, 2019, at the New Orleans Lakefront Arena. Hosted by the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and DEA 360, this free half-day event is designed to educate middle and high school students about the dangers of opioid addiction and encourage them to be part of the solution to ending this epidemic. The Summit seeks to empower students to take action in their schools to promote the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Please visit the summit website for event updates or email traynard@therendongroup.com for more information.
TOPS Tips

**TOP 5 Summer Processing Tips: Counselor Edition** is a list of LOSFA’s tips for ensuring your students are processed for TOPS correctly and on time this summer.

**10 Tips to Reduce TOPS Processing Delays: Student Edition** provides steps that can help prevent delays for high school seniors who have applied for TOPS.