



# The Counselor Connection

Fall 2015

[www.wnycollegeconnection.com](http://www.wnycollegeconnection.com)

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## Visit Us On the Web!

[wnycollegeconnection.com](http://wnycollegeconnection.com)

## The Counselor Connection

Welcome to the Fall 2015 edition of the Counselor Connection, a newsletter focusing on the activities and interests of School Counselors. This newsletter will keep you informed of what is happening with your colleagues, resources available to help your students and their parents, and provide you with a venue to promote your ideas and activities. To view previous issues [click here](#).

We look forward to your contributions and would like to include your thoughts as well as information about any upcoming activities, and events. Just scroll down to the bottom of the newsletter for directions on submitting content for our next issue!

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## P16 Partnership Website

In what can be defined as an innovative and bold move long overdue, WNY's educational leaders including, but not limited to, K-12 superintendents, curriculum developers, teachers, college presidents, chief academic officers, deans, chairs, professors, Erie I BOCES, the Board of Regents (Chancellor Emeritus Robert Bennett), and the Consortium leadership convened to discuss the alignment (or lack thereof) along the P-16 continuum.

The goal of this initiative is to fix the "leaks" along the P-16 pipeline, which is critical to area school districts, colleges and universities who are looking to improve student performance and college and career readiness. The ultimate vision for this multi-year initiative is that we are all in this together. We are fortunate to have a strong representation of K-12, college, and university educators who are equally committed to "fixing the leaks" along the P-16 continuum.

Most recently, the P16 Consortium has worked to develop a valuable collaborative platform, highlighting Higher Education Partnerships across Western New York. The [WNY P16 Partnership website](#) provides the opportunity for program developers, educational leaders, and community agencies to present the successful development of collaborative endeavors, serving our educational community. In addition, the website provides a venue to share and explore resources related to professional development, recent news and research, as well as guidance on developing educational partnerships.

[WNYCollegeConnection.com](http://WNYCollegeConnection.com)

[College Degree Finder](#)

[Student Life Profiler](#)

[Consortium Members](#)

[Consortium Collaborations](#)

## Promotional Materials

Check out our promotional materials! They can be downloaded directly from the WNY College Connection website, or **contact us** for additional promotional tools!

- [2014 WNYCC Flyer](#)
- [Business Card Promotional](#)
- [1/3 Panel Promotional](#)
- [3-Panel Brochure Promotional](#)

Through a spirit of strong collaboration and mutual respect, we all have high expectations for what our work can accomplish for WNY students, families, school districts, colleges, universities, employers, and the region as a whole! [Click here](#) to begin exploring the WNY P16 Partnership website now!

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## Explore the WNYCC Website: Excellent Resource for High School Counselors, Students and Parents!

As students begin their college search, having a resource to help navigate and explore their many options can be extremely helpful. WNY College Connection aims at making this time a bit easier for your students and their parents by providing a database that encompasses information about Western New York's 21 colleges and universities, what they have to offer, and advice during this important decision making process.

Many school counselors are already using this web site daily with their students. The response to the site has been overwhelmingly positive with many districts linking to [www.wnycollegeconnection.com](http://www.wnycollegeconnection.com) from their district web site.

Highlights of the site include:

- **College Degree Finder:** An up-to-date database of all of the majors and degrees offered at our 21 colleges and universities.
- **Student Life Profiler:** Quick links to student life information at our member institutions.
- **Comprehensive Information On:** Financial Aid, Scholarships (85+ scholarship sites), Admissions, College Success, Students with Disabilities, and more!
- **YouTube Videos:** Learn about each institution by viewing videos of students and faculty.
- **Easy to use, quick, dependable information for the busy student!**

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## Featured Website Tool: Planning a Visit

While navigating the college decision process, exploring the community surrounding higher education institutions can be an essential element. Encouraging students and their parents to evaluate what the geographic area has to offer, beyond specific higher education campuses, can significantly impact academic decisions. In order to accomplish this, students and their families often take time to not only visit college and university campuses, but spend time in the surrounding area as well. The [WNY College Connection Planning a Visit](#) tool provides a database where we have collected everything your students and their families need to know in order to successfully prepare for their visit to Western

*We appreciate our WNY High School Counselors! Please let us know if there is any way the WNYCC and our 21 Institutions can help you and your students!*

**Thank you!!!**



**For your ongoing support!!!**

New York. Accommodations and itineraries to maps and local forecast, the [Planning a Visit](#) tool has it all!

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## Highlighted Article: 3 Ways High School Counselors Can Help Students, Parents

Although the general public often does not recognize it, High School Counselors do a lot more than manage coursework, scheduling and college application preparation for large populations of students. Recently, the media has illustrated the multifaceted roles high school counselors take on.

The article, "[3 Ways High School Counselors Can Help Students, Parents,](#)" published by [U.S. News & World Report](#) highlights the various, and frequently unrecognized, tasks that high school counselors engage in on a daily basis. The author, Alexandra Pannoni, states, "school counselors help students thrive academically, personally and socially, and assist them in exploring their options after high school." This goes beyond arranging schedules and applying to college, encompassing the provision of academic support, parental counseling and support, and individual counseling.

[Click here](#) to read this article!

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## Skills Gap: Complex Problem Solving

The Skills Gap is defined as the current disconnect between what employers need from job candidates, and what is actually being presented when filling available positions. This disconnect, or "gap," is also present in the educational pipeline, as students transition from preschool through higher education.

Complex problem solving skills, the developed capacities used to solve novel, ill-defined problems in complex, real-world settings represents one skill set that employers identify as being an area of weakness (O\*NET). We use complex problem solving skills to look at problems from different vantage points, develop alternative solutions, and select the best solution given our understanding of the problem, the environment influencing the problem, and those impacted by its solution.

Visit the [WNYCC Skills Gap Analysis](#), or the [Complex Problem Solving Skills](#) section for more information on how to develop or enhance your student's complex problem solving skills!

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## New Educational Blog

Way too many college students miss opportunities to improve their

## Contact Us

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chances of success after college. A new blog, created and authored by Dr. Steven J. Harvey, uses a straight forward approach to show you how to improve your odds of landing that perfect job after graduation. Whether you are a student, parent, high school counselor, or college advisor, you will absolutely learn things you can use to help yourself or your child/student succeed. Guaranteed!

[Click here](#) to start reading now!!

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## Upcoming Events

Visit the WNY College Connection website to view our [Event Calendar](#) or click here to check out the [Open House Dates](#).

- November 17 [ASCA SCENE Webinar: Reach Higher With College- and Career-Readiness Resources](#)
- December 2 [ASCA SCENE Webinar: Enhance Students' Motivation to Achieve](#)
- November 20-21 [New York State School Counselor Association Annual Conference 2015 "School Counselors: Advocating Access for All!"](#)

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## Send Us Your Stories!!!!

**The Counselor Connection** is an electronic newsletter that is emailed twice per year (Fall and Spring). Content submitted will be edited and may utilize links to web sites for additional information. Good quality photos in jpg format are also welcome for possible publication. Please limit the article to 150 words.

Please send us your nominations for "Innovation in the Office," a section dedicated to highlighting the work of a local Counselor whose innovative ideas and pursuit of student success has positively impacted the area (feel free to nominate yourself)!

Please provide the following information in your nomination:

- Name
- School/Organization
- Job Title
- Summary of Innovative Work/Example of Best Practices
- Picture (optional)
- Advice or helpful tips for other counselors (optional)

[Email us](#) to be added to our mailing list!

Thank you!

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