

I am not going to fib, Lisa and I feel a great sense of relief bringing this epic year of professional development to a close. We were all over Western Pennsylvania and chin deep in quality trainings, from the visit to the Caring Place to Counselor self-care in a brisk, winter DiSalvo's. From Mark Kurantz, a national trainer from ASCA, to Mike Thompson, a co-writer of the PA Companion Guide and Michelle Brand, President-elect of PSCA. We donated to charities, awarded a scholarship, and provided ASCA Model reference books to members.

The trainings are done and now it is time to work. Familiarize yourselves with the materials. (If you missed any of the meetings, contact us and we may be able to provide you with copies). This will require a commitment of time and energy, but will pay immeasurable dividends. Share what you know with other counselors, your administrators, and teachers.

With budgetary concerns School Counselors are vulnerable and must be able to demonstrate our impact on student success. Encourage other counselors to join WSCA, for counselor specific professional development. Work on building your comprehensive, developmental counseling program. Check with your administrators to see if your school signed on to Ready by 21 – being funded by the United Way. Grant money may be available next year through Ready by 21 for those schools who take the initiative to start their programs. My dream is to have RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Programs) crop up all over Westmoreland County, so stakeholders become aware of School Counselors' critical contributions to student well being and success.

See you in October in the beautiful Laurel Highlands. Now, get to work!

Regards,

Sarah M. Switala