

IC3 Movement

2023 Theme: Finding Purpose Through Counseling

School-based career and college counseling is much more than an administrative function. When implemented intentionally and authentically, counseling can elevate the experiences and outcomes in school and transform society by launching young people on the critical journey of discovering purpose in their lives. The theme, “Finding Purpose Through Counseling”, is intended to inspire educators to unleash the full potential inside each and every student, through school-based counseling.

Sub-themes

1. Ethics in Counseling

This sub-theme aims to put into focus the ethical demands faced by career and college counselors, with a spotlight on the responsibility to provide unbiased guidance in the best interest of the student. The sub-theme seeks to explore best practices and ethical standards for relationships and interactions between schools and universities, as well as third-party organizations. It also aims to address ethical dilemmas counselors may encounter in their profession and to offer guidance and solutions to these scenarios as they arise.

Session topic examples:

- Post-Secondary Pathfinder: The counselor as an unbiased advocate and guide
- A Guide to Sustainable Recruitment Practices for Universities
- Eliminating Bias: A counselor's role in educating parents
- Best Practices in Counseling and Student Privacy
- Evaluating Potential Partnerships and Relationships with Service Providers

2. Creating Context Through Counseling

Learning outcomes in schools can be profoundly impacted when academic learning is contextualized through counseling. This sub-theme is intended to offer strategies to counselors in offering broader context to future post-secondary studies, bridging considerations of potential courses of study and future careers and career-related outcomes. Given the rapid and ongoing changes in our world (especially accelerated by the pandemic), the aim is to ensure counselors are well equipped to guide students and parents intentionally and holistically. Perspectives, experience, and data from education as well as industry will enrich discussions around this sub-theme.

Session topic examples:

- Small Fish, Big Tech Pond: Intentional guidance for STEM students
- Leveraging Science-Based Degrees and Skills, Beyond Medicine
- The Critical Need for Experiential Education in High Schools
- Interdisciplinary Education: Finding solutions through different perspectives
- Humanities & Social Science Careers: Exploring the obvious and the not-so-obvious

3. Counseling as a Shared Responsibility

The bureaucratic nature of many schools leads to a compartmentalized structure in which career and college counseling is often viewed as separate from academic learning and other critical functions. This sub-theme is intended to inspire discussion about how to advance counseling as a shared responsibility within each and every school, where administrators and teachers are also deeply invested in counseling practices and pedagogies. The sub-theme will also challenge universities to shift their relationships with schools from transactional in nature to those based on empowerment.

Session topic examples:

- Timetabling: Integrating counseling into the academic curriculum & calendar
- The Teacher as 10% Counselor
- Why School-Based Counseling Matters to Universities

4. Access

Each student has the right to obtain guidance from a qualified and informed counselor. Each counselor has the fundamental need to gain knowledge and expertise in order to best advise their students. These cornerstones of development in young adults cannot exist without access. Access moves beyond the advising of students, touching all aspects of the post-secondary experience. Information, too, plays a fundamental role in the growth and guidance process. This sub-theme explores the various points of access and resources available to students and to school-based counselors, while creating space for discussions on best practices and initiatives, with the aim of making post-secondary and career paths accessible to all.

Session topic examples:

- Busting the 5 Biggest Myths about Counseling
- Re-evaluating Outreach: Directing outreach efforts to overlooked student populations
- Beyond Scholarships: Merit-based, needs-based & unaffiliated financial support options
- Access and Resources for Students with Learning Differences

5. Leadership & Counseling

This sub-theme aims to highlight the critical role played by school and university leaders in the state of affairs of career and college counseling globally, and to guide leaders to elevate their schools and institutions by investing more time, resources, and space in the curriculum for counseling. Sessions related to this sub-theme should present research, data, and experience that demonstrates the benefits of authentic and dedicated counseling efforts within school settings. Additionally, the sub-theme seeks to demonstrate how university leaders can bolster international enrollment outcomes through a fresh approach to recruitment and outreach.

Session topic examples:

- Establishing an Effective Counseling Program, Top to Bottom
- Leadership Perspectives on the ROI of Counseling
- How Intentional Counseling Leads to Engaged Alumni
- Elevating Your School Through Counseling-Based Outcomes
- Integrating Counseling into the Academic Curriculum & Calendar

6. Foundations & Trends

It is critical for counselors and university representatives to keep pace with the changing landscape of higher education. Additionally, the field has welcomed many newcomers over the past year and there is a need for foundational training on best practices, academic systems in secondary and tertiary education, etc. This sub-theme is intended to create a platform through which foundations and current trends in recruitment, admissions, and career and college counseling, in general, can be explored.

Session topic examples:

- Making the Most of Your First Year as a Counselor
- The Evolution of Standardized Testing in Admissions
- Understanding the Academic Landscape of Secondary Education in West Africa
- Understanding the Academic Landscape of Secondary Education in the Indian Subcontinent
- An Introduction to the Role and Responsibilities of a Career Counselor
- Global Student Mobility Trends: New and emerging