


Voices from the islands of the blue Caribbean sea



The Global Center for
School Counseling Outcome Research
Evaluation & Development

**Thinking Globally, Counseling Locally:
Reaching Our Children, Youth And
Communities In An Era Of Globalization**

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

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The theory of ecology is the foundation that undergirds and guides The GCSCORED organization's mission, vision, beliefs, and practices and as an intended outgrowth, the GCSCORED/USC/IUSB Conference, "Thinking Globally, Counseling Locally: Reaching our children, youth and communities in an era of globalization. Because this conference is the first of its kind in the Caribbean region, awareness and education about the ecological perspective of counseling prior to the conference is critical for the success of the conference.

As such, from March 12th-18th GCSCORED, Inc. made trips to several Caribbean islands to conduct informational sessions with diverse stakeholders regarding the need for collaboration and engagement in promoting, attending, presenting and sponsoring at the upcoming conference June 29th-July 1st, 2015. The outcomes of the meetings were positive. We were reminded at every turn, in every conversation, in each island the urgency and relevance with which this conference is needed.

Ecological Perspective of Counseling

Ecology as defined by Merriam-Webster, is a science that focuses on relationships between groups of living things and their environments. Cook (2012) characterizes the term ecosystem as the totality of interactive influences operating within an individual's life in varying degrees of proximity, ranging from his or her biologically determined qualities and traits to the broader sociocultural context structuring human interactions." Therefore, everything that happens in an individual's life is shaped by the confluence of events, propensities, relationships, memories and other features of a life elaborated over time and across settings.

The ecological perspective of counseling mirrors this definition within the physical world. Therefore life and as a mandatory extension, relationships consist of interlocking systems, each depending on other living and non-living elements of the environment for sustenance. We as humans make up systems, subsystems and suprasystems and as such our relationships are multileveled, multifaceted, multidirectional and simply put, we cannot live, work, learn or love in isolation. We are each part of a constantly changing dynamic with other living and nonliving things, and a change in one area of the system impacts changes across other areas of that system, other systems and a change in the also occurs in the system where the initial change occurred .



Let every Voice be heard

Where do I fit in? Why should I attend this conference?

“As a parent with school aged children, I see my role as advocating for my children. I fit in when I stay in touch with the school, teach my children about being kind and caring.

As a community college lecturer, I see my role as one of being a safety net for students who may not want to go to the counselor. If I have some effective skills and strategies that I can use to intervene, then I could provide a safe place for my students and help ease the load of the counselor.

As a community college counselor, I see myself in the role of bringing awareness about the benefits of having a counselor on campus. I see myself in the role of counselor, but also an advocate for the field of counseling where I can help to dispel the stigma of counseling and mental health issues.

As a Psychologist, I see myself fitting in as an educator to principals, teachers and others about the different roles that are involved in a bullying situation. In a bullying situation it is not just the bully and

the victim, but there is also the bystander. Many principals and teachers do not engage the bystander and therefore positive results are not forthcoming.”

As a University Student support personnel, I am an advocate, one who uses data to improve programming and social groups on campus to help students become more engaged in university life. This is where they can feel a sense of belonging and thus improve their chances of graduating and not dropping out.

As a Social worker, It is clear to me that I need to attend this conference. When I see how limited the post -secondary options are for students, I want to find strategies to be able to help them.

As a graphic artist, I fit in when I can use my artistic abilities and training as an outlet for children and youth to appropriately express themselves in a medium that excites and actively engages them.

As a government official who has worked in the US and now working in the Caribbean, I can see clearly where our schools in the Caribbean are heading if there is no early introduction of life skills classes or social emotional education. We are heading to having police officers in our secondary schools; we are heading there fast and there’s no brakes on this train and if we don’t work together to teach social emotional education and provide safety nets for our children, youth and communities as Dr. Larrier has said, the story will not end pretty.

University Professor as a researcher and lecturer I see myself providing evidence based outcomes research to develop programs and trainings to support introducing particular interventions and strategies.

As a government official, I see myself fitting in as an educator who brings awareness to educate the system about truly implementing holistic education and not compartmentalizing the student and then only focusing on academics and testing.

As a guidance officer, I see myself fitting in when I am able to help my principal and teachers understand the comprehensive nature of my role as a professional who is trained to work with the whole child, the academic, career and personal social development of all students. I have to help the principals and teachers see the link between academic success and social emotional education and development.

As a NGO representative for an organization that works with children and youth, we fit in because we feel that we need new and effective strategies and interventions to work with these youths dealing with 21st century problems. Yes, we have to attend and send other staff as well.

As a construction company owner, I didn’t think this conference was for me and people like me. But after listening to Dr. Larrier present, I can really see the need for even business people to attend this conference. We need to attend because we want employees who have good people skills. Part of being a good employee is having the right attitude toward their colleagues, but also towards the client, because when the client is treated well, they are more likely to give us referrals for more business. So we want to learn strategies to help develop our employees who may not have the best people skills, but are experts in their trade.

As a religious leader, I see myself fitting in because I can get a better understanding of some of the problems our children and youth are facing and find other successful strategies to engage them and

reach them. Attending this conference is very important, if I want to stay relevant and meet the needs of the young people in my congregation.

As a science or math teacher I see why attending this conference makes sense. I have students who have so many “home problems” they can’t focus when they come to school and coming to this conference will help me to gain the knowledge and skills to help me, help my students. I would be more patient with them and try to understand them better.

As a youth worker, I fit in to the solution because when I am working with these children and youth in after school sports clubs, etc. I can be more understanding and knowledgeable about some of the problems they are dealing with. I would also be able to listen better and have more skills to help them. So I definitely need to attend this conference.

As a social worker, attending this conference will give me more updated strategies and tools to work with the children, youth, families, and communities.

Presenters- Can I be a presenter?

We welcome proposals from those of you who are working in the field, whether you work directly or indirectly with children, youth and communities. We believe that the strategies and interventions, techniques and tools that you have been using to reach children, youth and communities are worth sharing. These practice based proposals are critical to the dialogue and can help to foster the development of best practices indigenous to the Caribbean region.

If you have a research project or proposal you would like to submit, please feel free to do so. It doesn't have to be a completed research project, it can be a research proposal, a topic in which you are proposing to conduct further research. It can be a conceptual piece, one that is more theoretical in nature. You can also submit an innovative piece, one that you haven't fully completed the literature review on yet; or maybe you have a strong, substantive belief that this idea pushes the envelope and has the potential to make a significant difference in the field.

If you have your master's thesis and believe it can add to the body of knowledge and extend the discussion on reaching children, youth and communities, please submit.

**FROM SEEDS... TO FRUIT TREES.
10 YEARS & COUNTING.**

