

University  
of San Diego

**Center for Student Support Systems**

SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES





**The University of San Diego**

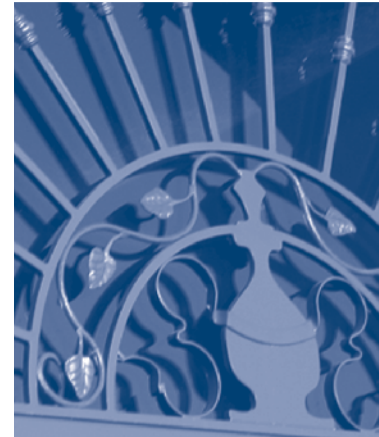
For more than six decades, the University of San Diego has been dedicated to providing a values-based education with a mission grounded in Catholic social teachings. Students are encouraged to explore how faith and reason are compatible in education, and to develop strong moral convictions. The university welcomes students, faculty and staff of all faiths, and believes all people benefit from the examination of other traditions.

**School of Leadership and Education Sciences**

The University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences has over 700 students at the certificate, credential, master's and doctoral levels. Programs are offered in areas as diverse as leadership, counseling, learning and teaching, and marital and family therapy. At SOLES, we believe that education for human service must have as its foundation a vision of enhancing human dignity and the quality of life. To do so, human service professionals must focus on moral perspectives in their professional and community lives.

**The Center for Student Support Systems**

The goal of any K-12 school counseling program is to provide students with the resources and support they need to succeed in the classroom and in life. The Center for Student Support Systems is an educational and research organization established within the University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) dedicated to improving the practice of counseling in K-12 schools. The center works with counselors, teachers, school leaders and researchers to strengthen counseling at the school site and district levels.



**Mission**

Founded in 2003, the mission of the Center for Student Support Systems is to increase student achievement and ensure equity and access to a rigorous education for all children by enhancing the link between research and practice among school counselors.

**Vision**

The center's vision is to work collaboratively with educators to provide students with comprehensive, evidence-based counseling programs that support the learning process and prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century.



“Very few institutions actually help fundamentally change the way school counselors approach their work. The Center for Student Support Systems is an essential tool for today’s school community. I can’t think of a program we need more!” **Loretta Whitson**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS

## Components and Services

### Research

The center focuses its research on a variety of counseling issues at the local, state and national levels. In addition, the Center for Student Support Systems partners with educators, counselors, administrators and school districts throughout San Diego County in research projects focused on improving the quality of services and programs provided to students.

### Action Research Lab

A portion of the center's research is concentrated on action research (professionals taking action to improve their practice by gathering and analyzing data and designing and implementing interventions based on the data). Within the center is the SOLES Action Research Lab, which is engaged in both school counseling action research and interdisciplinary work across SOLES programs. The Lab collaborates with schools and school districts to document and disseminate new knowledge in

education. The results of these collaborative projects are used in K-12 schools to improve grades, test scores, attendance, post-secondary planning, graduation rates and school safety.

### Professional Development

The San Diego Counseling Institute (SDCI) is the professional development unit of the Center for Student Support Systems. Quality professional development is essential to increase educators' knowledge, skills, attitudes and beliefs so they may better support all student learning at higher levels.

SDCI offers an extensive program of professional development opportunities to counselors, school psychologists, community agency counselors, clinical mental health counselors, school administrators and teachers. Workshops, institutes, conferences and symposiums take place throughout the year.



### Program Evaluation

Tailored to the exact needs of each school or school district, the center's program evaluation component offers a wide range of services to schools interested in evaluating the effectiveness of their counseling programs or enhancing their program evaluation capacity.

### Legislative Advocacy

The Center for Student Support Systems' administration believes that counselors are critical school-based professionals that are able to guide students towards college and career readiness. Counselors also have a significant impact on children's futures and are essential to their attainment of meaningful future options. In support of this belief, the center is active in legislative advocacy to protect school counseling jobs, student support service budgets and other resources vital to student success.

"The professional development opportunities made available by the Center are current and relevant. The programs offered are well done, and always worth my time." **Tanya L. Bulette**, COUNSELOR

## Conferences

Since 1999, nearly 2,000 educators have participated in the Annual Forum on School Counseling, which is held every December in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences. The forum is a conference where counselors, university faculty, graduate students and school leaders gather to learn about the latest issues in school counseling, and collaborate on practical “take home” solutions to challenges in their field.

The center also takes a leadership role in coordinating the Action Research Conference, a SOLES event held in May, which attracts researchers and practitioners from around the world. The purpose of the conference is to build bridges between research and practice in education, including counseling, classroom instruction and school leadership.



## Giving

The Center for Student Support Systems is a nonprofit, student-run organization. When you choose to financially support the work of the center through a donation, you are supporting our efforts to improve the quality of school counseling programs in order to raise student achievement levels. Making a gift expresses, in a deep and personal way, your values and your commitment to the betterment of our schools and student support systems. As faculty, staff and students, we commit to continuing our work on behalf of high quality counseling and guidance for all students. It is our obligation and privilege to honor your commitment to the center by being good stewards of your gifts.

### Contact Information

#### The Center for Student Support Systems

**Lonnie Rowell, PhD**

Director

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall  
Room 143  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110-2492

Phone: (619) 260-4212

E-mail: [lrowell@sandiego.edu](mailto:lrowell@sandiego.edu)

[www.sandiego.edu/soles/centers/  
student\\_support\\_systems](http://www.sandiego.edu/soles/centers/student_support_systems)

#### School of Leadership and Education Sciences

**Gary A. Neiger**

Director of Development and

Alumni Relations

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall  
Room 205F

5998 Alcalá Park

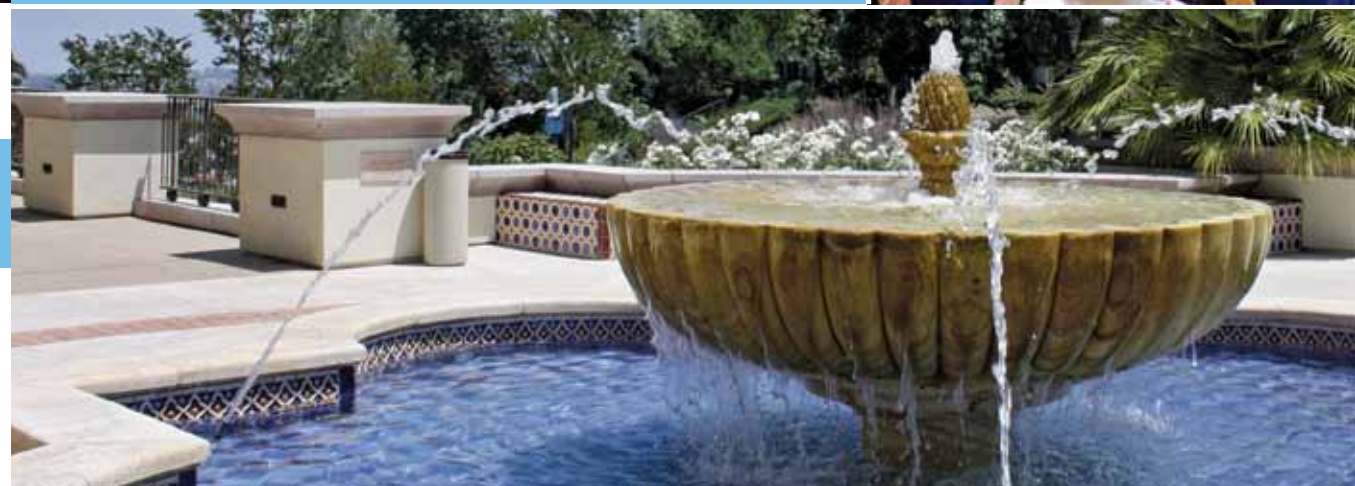
San Diego, CA 92110-2492

Phone: (619) 260-7783

E-mail: [garyn@sandiego.edu](mailto:garyn@sandiego.edu)



“The Forum is a great opportunity to learn about developing practices in school counseling as well as to network with established leaders in the field.” **Tobias Schwartz**, COUNSELOR





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