MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
      State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA) Annual Conference

The Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA) Annual Conference will be held in Birmingham, AL, at the Sheraton Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex on November 20-22, 2013. As always, the ALCA Annual Conference will provide professional development for school counselors and offer information on current school counseling topics to include their role in Alabama’s PLAN 2020. New counselors may attend the ALCA conference to meet the training requirement expected as part of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Counselor Academy.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Alabama Counselors: Helping People – Changing Lives.” I will speak at the opening on Wednesday, November 20, 2013. Keynote speakers will include Ms. Ginger Robinson, a school counselor with 38 years of experience at all grade levels as well as a much-in-demand speaker; Ms. Melissa “Missy” Smith, a counselor trainer and survivor of the school shootings in West Paduca, Kentucky, and now a counselor for troubled youth as well as a Ladies’ Home Journal “Most Fascinating Women”; and Dr. David Barnhart, an Alabama licensed professional counselor and certified mental health counselor and author of the book Write Your Fears Away. Ms. Nancy Wolfe, ALCA President, will preside at the conference. In addition, there will be approximately 100 content sessions on topics of concern and need for your counselors.

The ALCA is mailing registration packets to counselors who are members of the association. Others may obtain packets by going to www.alabamacounseling.org and clicking on “Annual Conference” or by contacting Dr. Chip Wood with the ALCA at 1-888-655-5460 or alca@alabamacounseling.org.

I realize that we continue to be in a financial crisis; however, I encourage you to support the attendance of your counseling coordinators and counselors if at all possible. The conference is inexpensive and will provide an excellent opportunity for professional development activities for your counselors and will assist counseling coordinators to reconceptualize their local comprehensive counseling and guidance program.

TRB/FS/KM

cc: City and County Counseling Coordinators

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