



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.  
Interim State Superintendent  
of Education

August 19, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Philip C. Cleveland *PCC*  
Interim 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 Hotel and Birmingham Jefferson Convention Center on November 16-18, 2016. As always, the ALCA Annual Conference will provide professional development for school counselors and offer information on current counseling issues. 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 "ALCA: 50 Years (1966-2016) of Service." Keynote speakers will include Mr. Phil Chalmers, nationally known authority on youth culture, teen murder, and school violence who will deliver his insights into "The Culture and Remedies to the Epidemic of Teen Violence"; Dr. Sam Gladding, author of 45 books and over 80 scholarly articles in all facets of counseling, will share his experiences with "Recollections and Reflections: Lessons Clients Teach Us About Counseling"; and Ms. Karron M. Standridge, Alabama professional school counselor, will address what a difference one person can make in "The Power of One." The ALCA president, Ms. Margaret McFadzean Fox, will preside at the conference. In addition, there will be approximately 100 content sessions on topics of concern and need for your counselors, plus numerous networking opportunities.

The ALCA is mailing registration packets to counselors who are members of the association. Others may obtain packets by going to [www.alabamacounseling.org](http://www.alabamacounseling.org) and clicking on "Annual Conference" or by contacting Dr. Chip Wood with the ALCA by telephone at 1-888-655-5460 or by e-mail at [alca@alabamacounseling.org](mailto:alca@alabamacounseling.org).

We must always be prudent with our time and resources; however, I encourage you to support the attendance of your counseling coordinators and counselors if at all possible. This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for professional development activities for your counselors and assist counseling coordinators to reconceptualize their local comprehensive counseling and guidance program.

PCC/SS/EF

cc: City and County Counseling Coordinators

FY16-4015

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