



SDCA News Bites

South Dakota Counseling Association

What Happens At “Day on the Hill”

Every legislative session, SDCA hosts what we refer to as “Day on the Hill” in Pierre (actually taken from Capitol Hill in DC). Many organizations have similar events during which they promote their profession with our state legislators. We set up coffee and snacks in the House and Senate lobbies for our Senators and Representatives. During this break, we introduce ourselves and discuss our jobs and current concerns. Sometimes we visit about specific aspects of our jobs, share our stand on specific issues, or field questions. In the past, there has also been time to sit in on testimony given in committees and observe other political action. It is important that we provide a noticeable presence and make our opinions known. Also, legislation can be introduced at anytime that can affect our profession, so we need to be ready to act.

I realize that it is hard to take time to attend this event. To encourage participation, anyone attending (who is not on the SDCA or SDSCA boards) will be given a stipend of \$25. Contact the board member from your area and carpool if you wish. The local universities often times send vans of students,

so contact them to see if you can ride along. Please don't think that you need to know anything about our political process. This is a great place to start your orientation!

We have many new people going to Pierre as legislators. It is important to introduce yourself to them so they know who to contact if they have any questions about counseling. This also gives you a good relationship to build on later during the session. It will give your input more weight when you contact them regarding bills.

Get to know yours by checking out their names and faces at <http://legis.state.sd.us/who/index.aspx>.

Follow legislation by visiting the following link: <http://legis.state.sd.us/general/webguide.htm>. Also refresh your memory on how a bill becomes a law at:

<http://legis.state.sd.us/general/bill2law.htm>.

To join SDCA at Day on the hill RSVP to Marlys Schmidt at SDCA@svtv.com or 605-940-9101.

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Day on the Hill

Agenda:

Orientation: 8:30 pm CST on the January 21st at the King's Inn in Pierre (You may be a part of the event without attending the orientation.)

Day on the Hill:
Friday, January 22, 2010 from 8:30-11:00 CST

11:30 am to 1 pm CST
Lunch at King's Inn with guest speakers planned by SDSCA and SDMHCA

SDCA Conference 2010 Update:

The South Dakota Counseling Association's annual conference will be held April 22-24 in Aberdeen at the Ramkota Hotel. Early bird registration is available now through January 31st.

The conference begins on Thursday with three pre-conference workshops to choose from. Thursday evening you will also have an opportunity to hear Dr. Russell A. Sabella speak about cyberbullying at a forum open to the community.

Friday morning starts off with a presentation entitled "Looking at the Past and Reaching Toward the Future" presented by Dr. Lynn Linde, president of ACA. There is also a great line up of breakout sessions to follow on Friday and Saturday.

Information about the pre-conference workshops can be found at <http://www.sdccounseling.org/preconference.aspx>

The registration form has been sent out several times via e-mail and will soon be available on the SDCA web site at <http://www.sdccounseling.org/>. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Ramkota Hotel in Aberdeen for 79.99 a night. Make your reservation by calling 1-605-229-4040 and mentioning the SDCA conference.

Leaders Needed!!!!

The SDCA is looking for leaders to fill 2010-2011 board. The president elect position will be open among others. If you are interesting in a leadership position or know someone you would like to suggest, please contact Jim Korcuska at James.Korcuska@usd.edu

Board Member Spotlight: *SDCA Education Chair*

Dr. Mark J. Britzman is currently SDCA's education chair and a tenured professor in the Counseling and Human Resource Development Department at South Dakota State University. He is also a licensed psychologist and certified clinical mental health counselor.

Mark is also a senior faculty member for the Josephson Institute of Ethics located in Los Angeles, CA and has conducted numerous Character Development Certification Seminars throughout the United States. He is one of the co-authors of the book by the Josephson Institute of Ethics entitled *What Every Youth Educator and Youth Leader Must Know: The case for character education and CHARACTER COUNTS!* He has also written four other books and numerous journal articles.

Mark promotes character in a variety of contexts including but not limited to the following:

delivering workshops throughout the United States and Canada, conducting pre-marital education on a weekly basis for the last ten years, developing a family enrichment center and childcare center at his church, and serving as a volunteer in numerous community endeavors. Dr. Britzman has also provided individual, couple, and family counseling including parent education for the last twenty-five years.

Mark was recently chosen as one of sixteen professors internationally to become a *William Glasser Scholar*. He received certification in Edinburgh, Scotland and recently was endorsed as a practicum supervisor in Choice Theory, Reality Therapy, and Lead Management.

Mark and his wife Rhonda have two children, Kylee and Ali. The Britzmans were named "Family of the Year" in Sioux Falls, SD by Family Service, Inc. Mark has recently also received three awards for teaching excellence and one for the Counselor of the Year in South Dakota.

