

D.J. Cantera
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Profile

Experienced, licensed guidance professional with expertise in testing, education, career counseling, and family issues in both middle school and high school educational settings. Actively engaged with students in at-risk populations, including coordinating individualized and small group instruction and conflict resolution. Accomplished mentor and character coach.

Professional Experience

School Counselor, Plano High School, Plano, TX

September 2015 — Present

- Provide guidance in areas of academic performance, social skills, self-esteem, and attendance to students in grades 9 through 12 using person-centered, solution-focused technologies
- Counsel students facing friendship issues, bullying, classroom behavior issues, and issues within their home environment
- Coordinated bi-weekly “Boys-to-Men” group focused on conflict resolution, responsibility, anger management, and behavior
- Coordinate with other school staff to organize school events including “Career Night,” “College Night,” and “You Can Win A Scholarship” night
- Collaborate with college guidance counselor in assessment of potential colleges for individual students

School Counselor, South Lake Middle School, Fort Worth, TX

August 2009 — June 2015

- Identified students social, emotional, and academic needs and provided appropriate, compassionate assistance, guidance, and interventions
- Support students through the unique challenges presented by their developmental stage
- Created proactive programming designed to engage students in leadership and advocacy. Project involved collaboration with multiple stakeholders within the school community.
- Assessed student abilities and interests to help guide them in decisions regarding curriculum

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Special Education

DREXEL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, Philadelphia, PA AUGUST 2003 — MAY 2007

Master of Education (M.Ed.) in School Counseling

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO, San Antonio TX September 2007 — May 2009

Key Skills

- Advocacy for students at Individual Education Plan meetings and other student-oriented meetings
- Data analysis to identify student issues, needs, and challenges
- Crisis counseling
- Application of academic achievement strategies
- Referrals for long-term support
- Collaboration with families/teachers/administrators/community to assure student success
- Strong assessment skills

Certification

- Dyslexia Specialist Certificate – 2009
- Graduate Certificate in Bilingual Counseling – 2014
- Texas School Counselor Certificate – 2009