

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
- Facilitate, administer, and evaluate testing for students
- Coordinate and participate in team meetings regarding IEPs, truancy, student classroom performance, and crisis management

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
- ♦ Counseled students challenged by stress of bullying, family transitions, or other issues impeding their success and wellbeing. Referred students for outside resources where appropriate.

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

Certifications

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

**D.J.
Cantera**

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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.

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
- Empathy
- Strong assessment skills
- Organization
- Career development
- Emotional development
- Multilingual (English, Spanish, Arabic)