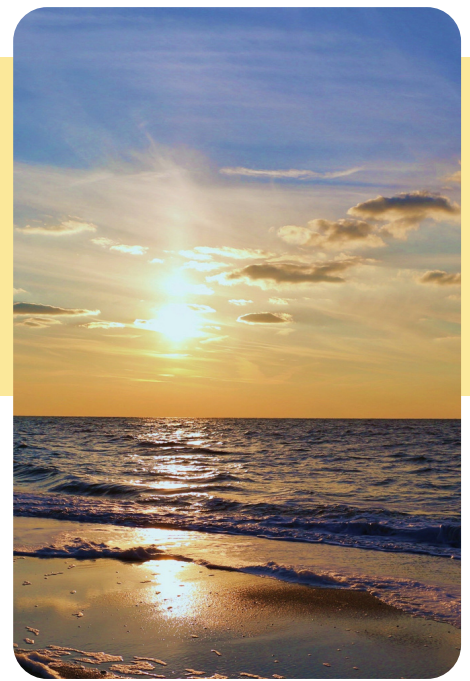


Meet Drug-Free Task Force Member Kerry Mueller

School Counselor, Clinton Township Middle School



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CAREER OVERVIEW

Kerry earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Master's degree in Education, and Specialist degree in School and Community Psychology all from Seton Hall University. She is certified as a school counselor and a school psychologist. Kerry had a turning point in January 2000 while attending Seton Hall. She was asked to work closely with several families whose children were affected by the dormitory fire at SHU & in particular one family who lost their son. After that experience, Kerry knew she wanted to pursue working with students in a direct manner and global approach through counseling.

Kerry has been a school counselor in Clinton Township for 20 years. From the first week she knew she found the place she belonged and could make a positive and helpful impact with students and their families.

SERVICE TO THE TASK FORCE

As a middle school counselor at Clinton Township Middle School, Kerry's experience working with students is invaluable to understanding school climate and the challenge's our youth face today. Her support for the Drug-Free Task Force and its initiatives has fostered a relationship that has made an impact in the community and provided an example for other middle schools in Hunterdon County. Kerry also serves as a leader on the North Municipal Alliance and assists getting prevention programming in place in various schools. She champions prevention work and is always willing to assist in any capacity she can.



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Our 5 Key Questions with Kerry Mueller

1

DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES OR FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS? IF SO, WHAT/WHERE ARE THEY?

I love photography, but I am a total amateur. Plus, I am always behind the camera, hence the lack of picture to go along with this spotlight!

My favorite place to be is on the beach after 4:00pm, when most people have left. This is when I love to sit with a good book and enjoy the calming sounds of the beach.

2

WHAT IS AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU?

I tend to be a speed-reader...I think graduate school ruined reading for pleasure. My record for reading is 9 books in 5 days. Also, I am the keeper of random information and facts...mostly from the 80s & 90s.

3

IF YOU COULD EAT A MEAL WITH SOMEONE PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Hands down, my mom. She died when I was young, and I would give anything to see & talk to her again.

4

WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN OUR COALITION? WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

My involvement in the coalition and my motivation are closely intertwined. For me, it's all about helping our youth, and being a positive impact. I am not always aware of what that is, but I hope they feel that I am someone they can come to whenever they need; when they are with me that they feel heard, supported and understood and when they leave me, they feel like they have choices, less alone and stronger to face whatever it is that has been a challenge for them.

Honest communication with students, especially in middle school, allows them to feel as though they are part of the solution(s), that it is okay to ask for help, and to understand what is in their control and not in their control. It also helps you teach them responsibility and accountability, which in turn increases self-confidence, esteem, and resiliency in students. These are the character traits that help them make healthy decisions when presented with risky options.

5

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE OUR COALITION MORE EFFECTIVE AND CONTINUE TO GROW?

I think the coalition is excellent, especially the variety of members. This groups significant advantage is bringing together different members of the community to articulate what they are seeing and needing to address in "real time". This is invaluable collaboration, especially with how rapidly things change.