



8 September 2009

Mrs. Jennifer Willie, President
Jamaica Association of Guidance Counsellors in Education
The General Secretary
C/O Guidance Unit
Caenwood Centre
Ministry of Education & Youth
37 Arnold Road, Kingston 5

Dear Mrs. Willie,

On behalf of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and its division, NBCC International, we would like to take this opportunity to send our sincerest wishes to you, the conference staff, and the delegates for the success of your conference, *Overcoming Obstacles: Committed Purpose*.

We have been following developments in Jamaica because we have a commitment to following the growth of the profession worldwide for our own education and to better inform our work. We are aware that JAGCE is dedicated to the growth and strengthening of the counseling profession and has been working with the Ministry of Education and the Jamaica Teaching Council to establish a clear professional identity for school guidance counselors. We have also heard about your strong commitment to standardizing counseling training.

Counselors are specialists with educational training who are the first social and mental health providers in schools. Training must range from academic and vocational information to working with youth struggling with psychological issues. NBCC believes that children in schools are best served when guidance counselors are effectively trained and specifically designated as distinct professionals performing specific tasks and services not only for students, but also for teachers, administration and the community.

NBCC applauds the commitment of JAGCE to strengthening the counseling profession in Jamaican schools and the leadership and dedication of your association to do so. We wish you continued success as 2009 closes and into 2010.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas W. Clawson, NCC, LPC, NCSC
President and CEO
NBCC & NBCC International

Dr. Wendi K. Schweiger, NCC, LPC
Associate Vice President
NBCC International