



2026 Theme & Sub-Themes

IC3 Movement

2026 Theme: Looking Deeply – From Information to Insight

In today's world, information is everywhere—at our fingertips, in our pockets, on every screen. Yet, true transformation doesn't come from data alone; it comes from looking beyond the surface – to pause, reflect, and uncover meaning in what is often overlooked or left unspoken.

The 2026 theme, “Looking Deeply – From Information to Insight,” invites educators, counselors, and institutions to go beyond the obvious. In an age where AI and search engines can provide answers, the true value of education and counseling lies not in what information we provide, but in how deeply we engage.

Our role is not just to share knowledge but to spark insight—that quiet understanding born from presence, reflection, and authentic connection. This shift—from data to discernment, competition to competence, and external validation to internal clarity—equips students to make decisions with confidence and purpose.

Aligned with IC3's mission of bringing counseling to every school, this theme reinforces the belief that students deserve more than access to information. They deserve the tools to transform it into self-awareness and meaningful action. Looking deeply is not just a skill; it is a responsibility to guide with wisdom, listen with compassion, and serve with integrity.

Sub-Themes

Counseling and Admissions Practices for a Dynamic Generation

Today's learners (and educators) are dynamic, multidimensional individuals, often navigating diverse roles, expectations, aspirations and pressures.

This sub-theme will explore emerging practices in counseling and admissions that reflect the diverse needs of Gen Z and Gen Alpha, grounded in empathy, inclusion, and a whole-student approach.

Fostering Trust, Transparency, and Integrity in Counseling, Recruitment & Admissions

In an increasingly complex education landscape, ethical practice must be the foundation of all guidance.

This sub-theme calls for a collective return to integrity—centering trust, transparency, and accountability in every interaction. It also aims to surface and engage with some of the most challenging, often unspoken, ethical dilemmas facing educators in a landscape that can feel increasingly transactional. It will highlight frameworks, such as the IC3 Institute's Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct (CEPC), that champion student-centered, mission-aligned counseling practices.

School–University Partnerships

Strong, intentional partnerships between schools and institutions of higher education remain central to student success. This sub-theme highlights models of collaboration that extend beyond admissions, creating shared spaces for mentorship, dialogue, joint research, and learning exchange that benefit both schools, institutions, and students.

Consciousness & Well-being

To cultivate insight, we must first nurture the inner world. This sub-theme centers the vital role of consciousness, mindfulness, and emotional well-being in the educational journey. It explores how schools and institutions can create safe, nurturing environments where students and educators thrive—mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Aligning Counseling & the Future World of Work

As automation, climate shifts, and global disruptions reshape the world of work, this sub-theme focuses on preparing students not just for careers but for a lifetime of contribution and adaptability. It will examine ways counseling can bridge purpose with opportunity and empower students to navigate complexity with clarity.