

# I AM ASCA

## JOHN NWOSU

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**WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR?** I'm a 6'1" Black guy from southeastern U.S., with a father from Abia State, Nigeria, and a mother from Mobile, Ala. There aren't many Black people, especially men and children of immigrants, in this profession. I'm hoping to contribute to increasing the levels of diversity, inclusion and fairness in the coming years.

**WHAT WORDS DO YOU LIVE BY?** I am my community. I wouldn't be where I am if not for all the people and forces in the past and present who moved in ways that have been beneficial to me.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR?** Collaboration. The people I get to work with each day are awesome, and I learn a lot from them.

**FAST FACTS > WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY BINGE WATCHING?** STEVEN UNIVERSE > **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG?** DA ART OF STORY TELLIN' BY OUTKAST > **WHAT SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD?** THE POWER TO MIMIC THE POWER OF OTHERS > **WHAT IS ONE THING YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT?** RUNNING > **WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU THINK MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?** I HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CHEMISTRY AND LOVE "HAMILTON."

READ MORE ABOUT NWOSU  
[WWW.SCHOOLCOUNSELOR.ORG/IAMASCA](http://WWW.SCHOOLCOUNSELOR.ORG/IAMASCA)

**WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR?** Ikigai is a Japanese concept that explores the intersection of what we love, what we're good at, what the world needs and what we can be paid for. School counseling is a calling that has allowed me to find balance among these four areas.

**WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU WEREN'T A SCHOOL COUNSELOR?** I would spend more uninterrupted time with my wife and five-month-old son. If I were working in another field, it would be speaking and leading professional learning full time.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO BE PART OF A COMMUNITY OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS?** We aren't built to do this work in isolation. We are wired to be social, and there is more power between us than within us.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TOOL TO USE IN YOUR WORK AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR.** I have to go with the article by Dena Simmons about moving from SEL to Fearless SEL titled "Why We Can't Afford to Whitewash SEL." It's a great reference point with helpful resources on how to teach SEL in a more culturally sustaining and relevant way.

