



## **ASCA Announces 2017 School Counselor of the Year Finalists**

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**ALEXANDRIA, VA** – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce the five finalists for the 2017 School Counselor of the Year awards program (#SCOY17). The award honors the school counseling professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation's students, helping them achieve success in school and in life.

The five finalists are:

- Jennifer Adams, Carolina Springs Middle School, Lexington, S.C.
- Rebecca Lallier, Dothan Brook School, White River Junction, Vt.
- Dawn Mann, Harrison High School, Kennesaw, Ga.
- Yuridia Nava, Riverside Polytechnic High School, Riverside, Calif.
- Terri Tchorzynski, Calhoun Area Career Center, Battle Creek, Mich.

From these five finalists, one will be named the 2017 School Counselor of the Year.

Nominations for the School Counselor of the Year awards program were submitted by the state school counselor associations. The School Counselor of the Year awards panel was composed of representatives from AASA: The School Superintendents Association; ACT; the College Board; the National Association for College Admission Counseling; the National Association of Elementary School Principals; Operation Respect, Parent Teacher Association and representatives from Ashland Elementary School, Manassas, Va.; Bishop

O'Connell High School, Arlington, Va.; Flagstaff High School, Flagstaff, Az.; Staley High School, Kansas City, Mo.; T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, Va. The panel selected the finalists based on several criteria, including: school counseling innovations, effective school counseling programs, leadership and advocacy skills and contributions to student advancement.

"School counselors make significant contributions to the overall well-being of students and their success," said Richard Wong, Ed.D., executive director, American School Counselor Association. "They are uniquely qualified to address students' academic achievement, career development and social/emotional needs. Through the School Counselor of the Year award, we are able to acknowledge their diligence, commitment and excellence."

The finalists, their principals and a representative from their state school counselor associations will travel to Washington, D.C., in early January for three days of celebratory and educational events. The finalists will be honored in a ceremony at the White House and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala.

### **About the American School Counselor Association**

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of professional school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic achievement, career planning and social/emotional development to help today's students become tomorrow's productive, contributing members of society. Founded in 1952, ASCA currently has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of more than 31,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).