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ASCA Announces 2020 School Counselor of the Year Finalists

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce the four finalists for the 2020 School Counselor of the Year awards program (#SCOY2020). The award honors exemplary 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 four finalists are:

- Amanda Jo Bustamante, Paso Del Norte School, El Paso, Texas
- Jennifer Kline, Festus High School, Festus, Mo.
- Laura Ross, Five Forks Middle School, Lawrenceville, Ga.
- Julie Taylor, Starr Elementary School, Oregon, Ohio

ASCA will announce the 2020 School Counselor of the Year in late fall.

Nominations for the School Counselor of the Year awards program were submitted by ASCA-affiliated state school counselor associations. The School Counselor of the Year awards panel included representatives from AASA: The School Superintendents Association; the College Board and the National Association for College Admission Counseling; as well as representatives from

Francis Scott Key Elementary School, Arlington, Va.; Jones College Prep, Chicago, Ill.; Potomac Senior High School, Dumfries, Va.; Poudre High School, Fort Collins, Co.; Stone Hill Middle School, Ashburn, Va.; and St. Theresa School, Ashburn, Va. The panel selected the finalists based on several criteria, including school counseling innovations, exemplary comprehensive school counseling programs, leadership and advocacy skills, and contributions to student outcomes.

“These School Counselor of the Year finalists have demonstrated their commitment to the values and mission of the school counseling profession,” said Richard Wong, Ed.D., ASCA executive director. “The research is clear: school counselors have a significant impact on students’ academic achievement, social/emotional development and postsecondary planning. The annual School Counselor of the Year award highlights their dedication, contribution and excellence.”

The finalists and their principals will travel to Washington, D.C., in late January for special celebratory and educational events, including a black-tie gala.

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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 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 has a network of 50 state and territory associations and a membership of more than 36,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit

www.schoolcounselor.org.