



ASCA Awards RAMP Schools of Distinction to Honor High-Caliber School Counseling Programs

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ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) presented five Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) School of Distinction awards at its recent 2016 Annual Conference in New Orleans, La. The RAMP School of Distinction award honors schools with exceptionally high-caliber school counseling programs based on rankings determined by a panel of RAMP reviewers. This is the first year the RAMP School of Distinction recognition has been awarded.

The 2016 RAMP School of Distinction recipients are:

- Couch Middle School, Grayson, Ga.
- Dothan Brook School, White River Junction, Vt.
- Lake Braddock Secondary School – High School, Burke, Va.
- Simpson Central School, Pinola, Miss.
- Twin Rivers Middle School, Buford, Ga.

Each RAMP School of Distinction honoree has built a robust, data-driven school counseling initiative or intervention to support the students and staff within their school.

Couch Middle School: Their annual program goals focused on reducing minor behavioral infractions, reducing the number of students missing more than 10 days of school and ensuring that students at risk of retention earned a grade of 70 or better. To achieve these goals, their

counseling team created classroom lessons, small group programs and conducted individual counseling which produced astonishing results.

Dothan Brook School: This school counseling program's goals focused on behavior in first grade (as that cohort of students represented 38 percent of referrals during the previous school year) and fourth grade behaviors that impeded academic engagement. Goals like these come from thoughtful reflection of the school's data. It represents a deep understanding of using data and responding to the unique needs of the students.

Lake Braddock Secondary School – High School: This school counseling program received their third RAMP designation this year. Their school counseling team impacted the achievement gap of their Hispanic students, showing a 16 percent decrease in tardiness offenses and a 9 percent decrease in class cuts as well as an overall decrease of 8 percent in discipline offenses for this population.

Simpson Central School: This school has one school counselor serving the entire student population of 519 students. During the 2015–2016 school year, the school counselor focused on improving the failing grades for students in grades 3–8 and decreasing absences for her economically disadvantaged students. Her interventions were successful for 94 percent of her students.

Twin Rivers Middle School: This school counselor team have led by example as they collaborate weekly with teachers and administrators through a designated "Kid Talk" time. During the "Kid Talk" sessions, the specific needs of select students are discussed. "Kid Talk" proved to be a successful initiative that reaped results. After results were shared within the school district, other middle schools adopted the practice.

The American School Counselor Association (www.schoolcounselor.org) is a worldwide nonprofit organization based in Alexandria, Va., and the school counseling division of the American Counseling Association. Founded in 1952, ASCA supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, career and social/emotional development so they not only achieve success in school but are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. The association provides professional development, publications and other resources, research and advocacy to school counselors around the globe.

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