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### **Lisa Delgadillo Selected as 2025 School Counselor of the Year Finalist**



ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce Lisa Delgadillo as a finalist for the 2025 School Counselor of the Year® awards program (#SCOY25). Delgadillo is a school counselor at Hibbard Elementary School, a RAMP® school in Chicago, Ill. The school serves 943 students, grades pre-K–6. Delgadillo, who has been a school counselor since 2013, earned her bachelor’s degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her master’s degree from Adler University.

“Lisa does a tremendous job of advocating for every student at Hibbard,” said Sharon Davila, a clinical social worker at Hibbard Elementary School’s school-based health clinic. “I have witnessed Lisa not only initiate difficult conversations about equity, cultural humility and trauma-informed care, as she leads our Behavioral Health Team, but also model what that looks like as she interacts with students and teachers. Lisa has been instrumental in developing a bridge between students and staff to ensure that every student receives compassionate care.”

Last year, Delgadillo spearheaded a Five Senses Coping Skills unit in collaboration with Davila. They designed the unit for classrooms with high percentages of students new to the country. “We focused on supporting social/emotional needs and helping them build community with one another – and with us,” Delgadillo said.

"We led engaging activities using all five senses in coping strategies such as listening to relaxing music, visualizing peaceful settings, working with clay to create artistic expression, and mindfully tasting different flavors. We incorporated community building with game playing and a field day. On the last day, students received Five Senses Coping Skills kits, containing sketchbooks, scented pencils, sour candy and bubbles, with reminders of the lessons. We measured our unit efficacy in two ways: we looked at the rate of referrals and administered Mindsets & Behaviors surveys. Both data sets showed the intervention was effective; it led to a dramatic decrease in referrals and a meaningful increase in knowledge of ways to cope with stress. Additionally, I could see each week that our students were excited to participate, and one of the teachers reported that the end-of-unit celebration was the most fun she'd ever had with a class."

"Each year, the School Counselor of the Year<sup>®</sup> program shows us what the research tells us – that school counselors have a significant impact on students' academic achievement, social/emotional development and plans for life after graduation," said Jill Cook, ASCA executive director. "Through their dedication, contributions and excellence, these finalists have demonstrated their commitment to the values and mission of the school counseling profession."

The School Counselor of the Year<sup>®</sup> and finalists will be celebrated in Washington, D.C., in January 2025 and will participate in online events during National School Counseling Week, Feb. 3–7, 2025.

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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 53 state and territory associations and a membership of approximately 43,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).