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Annie Goldberg Selected as 2026 School Counselor of the Year Finalist



ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce Annie Goldberg as a finalist for the 2026 School Counselor of the Year[®] awards program (#SCOY26). Goldberg is a school counselor at Broadview Middle School in Burlington, N.C. The school serves 513 students, grades 6–8. Goldberg, who has been a school counselor since 2017 received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in school counseling, both from the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Anne Goldberg is the type of school counselor every school dreams of having – compassionate, strategic, forward-thinking and wholly invested in the success of each student," said Nicole Lancaster, principal, Broadview Middle School. "Her work embodies the very best of what school counseling can be, and her leadership has had a ripple effect that will benefit our school community for years to come."

With the increase in community violence after the pandemic, Broadview Middle School experienced a rise in physical aggression, peer conflict and fighting, especially in the Black and Hispanic male populations. To address the issue, Goldberg founded Broadview's Restorative Justice Team and organized an immersive summer training led by professionals in implementing restorative justice in schools. During the 2024–2025 school year, the Restorative Justice Team led

circles to create and restore relationships at school and in the community, provided individual coaching to teachers on creating a positive classroom culture and led schoolwide professional development on relationship-building and how to tend to students' trauma. "To engage students in this initiative and promote leadership, I arranged for the trainers to work with a group of students so they could become peer mediators for their grade," Goldberg said. At the end of the school year, they saw a 30% reduction in out-of-school suspension assignments and a more than 18% decrease in the number of out-of-school days assigned to Black male students.

"Each year, the School Counselor of the Year® 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® and finalists will be celebrated in Washington, D.C., in January 2026 and will participate in online events during National School Counseling Week, Feb. 2–6, 2026.

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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.