

ASCA Monthly Update

APRIL 2025

Keynote Speakers Announced

The keynote speakers have been finalized for the 2025 ASCA Annual Conference.

Former New England Patriots wide receiver Malcolm Mitchell founded the nonprofit organization, Share the Magic Foundation, with a sole purpose: to transform children's lives through literacy.



Erin Gruwell is a teacher, author and activist who has been fighting for social justice for more than two decades. Gruwell's students, affectionately called the Freedom Writers, came from backgrounds of poverty, and many were at-risk of dropping out of school. But, under Gruwell's guidance, all 150 Freedom Writers graduated from high school and pursued higher education.

Upcoming Meetings & Dates

April

- 1** SCA Data Due - Membership Data and lists
- 4** Application Deadline for 2025 ASCA Pinnacle Award
- 9** SCA Association Staff Meeting
- 10** Advocacy Briefing

May

- 1** LDI State/Territory Request Form Due
- 2** Delegate Rate increases \$449
- 14** SCA Share
- 26** School Counselor of the Year from SCA due to ASCA

APRIL UPDATES

ADVOCACY BRIEFING

The advocacy briefing provides ASCA members an opportunity to learn about current topics at the federal and state levels impacting education and school counseling. Members will also learn about new and existing resources to support advocacy efforts at the local, state and national level. **April, 10, 2025, 4-5 p.m. Eastern. [Register here.](#)**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ASCA is conducting a **campaign through VoterVoice** to advocate to preserve the Department of Education to ensure the statutory requirements can be fulfilled.

2025 RAMP Office Hours

RAMP® office hours are one of several resources for those seeking to earn RAMP® for their school. Office hours events give applicants an opportunity to ask questions as they are working on various sections of the application. RAMP® team captains are there live to offer immediate responses to questions. This resource is available to members and nonmembers.



Click the date below to join.

[Thursday, April 24, 5 p.m. EDT](#)

[Thursday, May 15, 5 p.m. EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 12, 5 p.m. EDT](#)

[Thursday, Aug. 14, 5 p.m. EDT](#)

[Thursday, Sept. 18, 5 p.m. EDT](#)

[Thursday, Oct. 9, 5 p.m. EDT](#)

APRIL UPDATES

2025 LDI & ASCA Business Meeting

July 10-July 11, Long Beach, Ca.

Details below include FAQ about LDI, ASCA Business Meeting (formally Delegate Assembly) and the ASCA Annual Conference



Schedule

LDI is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. PT on July 10; July 11 is expected to conclude by approximately 6 p.m. PT. A [tentative schedule is available here.](#)

All updates will be made to the Affiliate Exchange LDI page with a short-cut alias at www.schoolcounselor.org/ldi so you can be sure to have up-to-date information available without having to search through email.

Details

States/Territories may send as many participants as they wish to LDI and the ASCA Business Meeting by **submitting the State/Territory Request Form, due May 1.**

There is no cost to attend this meeting, but all participants must be an active ASCA member at the time of the event. Late registrations are unable to be accommodated without advance notice. No-shows without notice may be charged a no-show fee.

Each SCA will designate the two voting delegates for the ASCA Business Meeting. Each voting delegate is required to be an ASCA Professional or Retired member as outlined by ASCA Bylaws and Policies. All other participants are considered non-voting delegates.

Association Staff Working Session before LDI

July 10, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Working Meeting with breakfast and lunch provided. Executive directors and other association management staff are invited to a facilitated working session in advance of LDI in Long Beach. RSVPs will be confirmed via the individual LDI registration process.

ASCA Annual Conference - Delegate Rate

Those attending LDI and ASCA Business Meeting are eligible for the the delegate rate to attend the ASCA Conference:

- By May 1 – \$399
- After May 1 – \$449

Register for the ASCA Conference online by adding the email for the individual and selecting "Member" and then "Delegate rate" option.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

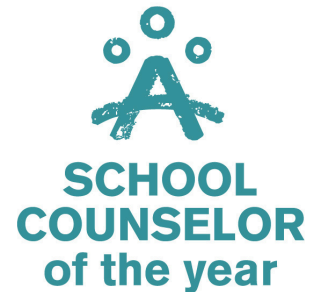
Registration is now open for in-person and virtual for the 2025 ASCA Annual Conference July 12-15, Long Beach, Calif.



**Navigate
AND
Innovate**
JULY 12-15, 2025
LONG BEACH, CALIF.

SCOY TIMELINE

The 2026 timeline is now available on [Affiliate Exchange](#). Each state/territory association must submit their winner by **May 26, 2025**. From the state award winners, the review committee will select the finalists and the 2026 School Counselor of the Year. All School Counselor of the Year honorees will be notified regarding details about the 2026 celebration after the selection process is complete.

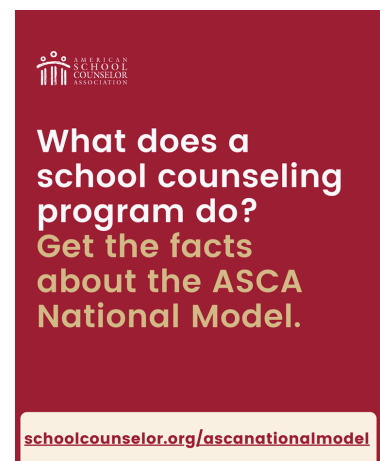


ASCA in Your Neighborhood

ASCA's hitting the road, virtually, that is. ASCA members are invited to join the neighborhood dialogue to share how you're maintaining supportive and welcoming learning environments in your school communities and helping each and every student succeed. Discuss the current landscape and dig into relevant conversations for you and your work. [Register here.](#)

New Resources in the Advocacy Toolkit

ASCA has updated the resources in the [advocacy toolkit](#), including new messages and graphics for the Get the Facts campaign.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

BLUESKY SURVEY

Please take a moment to [complete this brief form](#) about SCA use of Bluesky so we can capture all account handles and provide support, if desired.

SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICE HOURS

Need help with your association's social media strategy or want advice on best practices? Schedule [office hours](#) with ASCA's social media manager, Kayla Shelton.

Governance Capacity Building

Each SCA is eligible to select one package each year that meets their governance training needs. Any costs beyond the provided ASCA allotment will be contracted and paid directly by the SCA to the consultant. **The new cycle has begun. Request your selection today.**

SCA CALENDAR

View the calendar for upcoming SCA events and deadlines [here](#).



Out and About

Jill Cook attended a Learning First Alliance meeting

Amanda Fitzgerald participated in a Human Rights Campaign policy meeting.

Eric Sparks provided assistance to Pennsylvania in the development of the Pennsylvania School Counseling Framework.

ASCA staff participated in the Evidence-Based School Counseling Conference.

ASCA staff attended AASA's annual conference and participated in a roundtable session about the role of the school counselor.

ASCA staff participated in a National Education Association webinar about the Department of Education.

Amanda participated in the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments project director meeting.

Amanda participated in the EdTrust career development meeting.

Out and About



PRESS

- *Word In Black* – 2024 School Counselor of the Year Diana Virgil gave an interview on Black queer students who have expressed their fears and concerns about being a K–12 student during the current administration.
- *Education Week* – 2025 School Counselor of the Year finalist Stephanie Nelson was interviewed for an article on changing perspectives on career technical education.
- *Education Week* – 2025 School Counselor of the Year finalist Rosie Rodriguez gave an interview on how school counselors can best support immigrant students who feel fearful about changes to federal immigration policies.
- *Next Avenue* – A story on how school counselors monitor evolving language at school and can ensure kids are not accidentally using offensive terms.