Media Contact
Kathleen Rakestraw
(703) 683-2722 • krakestraw@schoolcounselor.org

For immediate release – Nov. 17, 2026

Diana Chandra Selected as 2027 School Counselor of the Year Finalist



ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce Diana Chandra, ACSC, is a finalist for the 2027 School Counselor of the Year® awards program (#SCOY27). Chandra is the school counselor at Camp Hill Middle School, Camp Hill, Pa. The school serves approximately 300 students, grades 6–8. Chandra has been a school counselor since 2016. She received a bachelor's degree in kinesiology with health and physical education teacher certification from The Pennsylvania State University and a masters of education in school counseling from Loyola University Maryland.

"I have the privilege of knowing Diana as a parent of a student she serves, as a community member and as a fellow professional in the counseling field. In each of these roles, I have witnessed her extraordinary dedication, advocacy and effectiveness as a school counselor," said Leah K. Clarke, director, graduate program at Messiah University. "She creates a welcoming environment where students feel valued, understood and capable of success. She advocates tirelessly for students while simultaneously advancing the school counseling profession through exemplary programming and leadership. In my roles as a parent, counselor and counselor educator, I am well acquainted with the work of school counseling, and so I can say with confidence that Diana Chandra embodies the profession's ideals."

"In my 35 years in education, I have never seen a school counselor as effective in their role as Diana Chandra," said Chad Gallagher, middle level science educator, Camp Hill Middle School. "The impact on our school has been profound. She makes us all better people."

"As the principal of Camp Hill Middle School, I have had the privilege of working closely with Mrs. Chandra since she joined our team in August 2023. Her impact on our school community has been nothing short of transformative," said Nick Snider, principal, Camp Hill Middle School. "One of Diana's most impressive contributions has been her leadership in student transition programming. She created a 1:1 mentoring program for rising sixth graders, pairing them with current students to ease the transition into middle school. She also established the Lions LEAD peer mentoring program between our middle and high school students, fostering connection and leadership across grade levels."

"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 2027.

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 38,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit *schoolcounselor.org*.