I AM ASCA

CHAD JACKSON
School Counselor, Ponderosa Elementary School, Billings, Mont.

WHY ARE YOU AN ASCA MEMBER? I think that particularly in the school counseling profession it’s critical to be able to do professional consultations, constantly be apprised of the best practices in the field and to glean from the wisdom and perspective of other professionals.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? There is no other profession that is on the forefront of what is happening in our culture and with our students. We are leading the charge of caring for the next generation.

WHAT WORDS DO YOU LIVE BY? Do the next right thing.

WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU WEREN’T A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? I’d love to be a zoologist.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SCHOOL COUNSELING? My dad was a school counselor, and so from a young age I wanted kids to run up to me thrilled to see Mr. Jackson.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? Every day matters, and every day is new and different.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO DECOMPRESS/ELIMINATE STRESS/REFUEL FOR THE NEXT DAY? I love to get away to the mountains to camp, kayak or ski. Sometimes I also need to escape in a good book.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO BE PART OF A COMMUNITY OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL STUDENTS? The challenges we face in this day and age are perhaps more dire and complex than at any time in my tenure as an educator. Only by using our combined ingenuity can we begin to solve these conundrums together.

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU’RE REALLY GOOD AT? STAYING CALM IN A CRISIS

WHAT’S SOMETHING IMPORTANT YOU LEARNED FROM ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS? I’ve learned that what I know and see as reality is only from my own personal lens. My experience and reality may not be applicable or true for my students.

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