



ASCA Monthly Update

OCTOBER 2024

2025 School Counselor of the Year Finalists

ASCA is pleased to announce the five finalists for the 2025 School Counselor of the Year awards program (#SCOY25).

The five finalists are:

- Lisa Delgadillo, Hibbard Elementary School, Chicago, Ill.
- Hanna Kemble-Mick, Indian Hills Elementary School, Topeka, Kan.
- Carmen Larson, Ph.D., Sarasota Middle School, Sarasota, Fla.
- Stephanie Nelson, Ph.D., ACSC, Garner Magnet High School, Garner, N.C.
- Rosa I. Rodriguez, Chester E. Jordan Elementary School, El Paso, Texas

Upcoming Meetings & Dates

November

13 SCA Share

18 ASCA Annual Conference On-Demand access closes



Finalists

LISA DELGADILLO
HIBBARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CHICAGO, ILL.

HANNA KEMBLE-MICK
INDIAN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TOPEKA, KAN.

CARMEN LARSON, PH.D.
SARASOTA MIDDLE SCHOOL, SARASOTA, FLA.

STEPHANIE NELSON, PH.D., ACSC
GARNER MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL, GARNER, N.C.

ROSA I. RODRIGUEZ
CHESTER E. JORDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EL PASO, TEXAS

OCTOBER UPDATES

ASCA Board of Directors

On Sept. 30, Lisa Fulton and Eva Gibson finished their terms on the ASCA Board of Directors. As of Oct. 1, Matthew Berry and Joseph Batiano have joined the board, and Christy Welch took over as board chair.



New ASCA-Certified School Counselors

Congratulations to the new class of ASCA-Certified School Counselors (ACSC)!

- Jennifer Smith, Williamsburg, VA
- Jillian Hove, Maple Valley, WA
- Cynthia Kaste, Saint Paul, MN
- Diego Castro, Delhi, CA,
- AnnaGrace Baldwin, Birmingham, AL
- Diana Chandra, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Kristy Elderkin (McLain), Mobile, AL
- Missy Smith, Norman, OK
- Annie Goldberg, Burlington, NC
- Kristin Frankel, Front Royal, VA
- Stephanie Bradford, Mobile, AL
- Stephen Watts, Citronelle, AL
- Connie Dewlen, Firestone, CO
- Michaela Thomas, Tilton, NH

Learn more about ACSC [here](#).

AFFINITY GROUPS

On Sept. 16, the ASCA School Counselor Educator Affinity Group hosted a virtual event: "Building Community for New School Counselors and Grad Students. The purpose was to help those new to the school counseling profession navigate the early stages of their career. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and get support from seasoned professionals while also networking and connecting with peers who may be experiencing similar situations. 60 people participated in the event.

Affinity Group meetings have come back with the start of the new school year. Check out the full list of affinity groups and [upcoming meetings here](#).

COLLABORATION

On Sept. 10, Angie Hickman participated in the ASAE Research Foundation WorldCafé. This event focused on defining success criteria for 21st-century associations, rethinking established practices and capturing ideas to build a supportive community of change leaders.

The U.S. Department of Education launched the [Attendance Champions Challenge](#), designed to increase student attendance and more fully support engagement so students and families feel connected to their school community. All Attendance Champions Challenge entrants will receive a certificate of participation from the department and may be invited to highlight their innovative approaches at future webinars, convenings and other activities hosted by the department. The challenge closes on Nov. 30 at 9 p.m. EST.

On Sept. 21, 2024, Dr. Jill Biden hosted a back-to-school event at the White House for educators. ASCA invited Vicky Campbell, Maureen Ponce and Sheila Barnhart-Ramirez, school counselors in Virginia and Maryland, to participate in the event on the South Lawn.

On Sept. 24, Jill participated as a panelist at the Center for American Progress' 10th Annual Gun Violence Prevention Summit about investing in school-based personnel and community partnerships to promote safe schools.

CASEL released its newest report, "Social and Emotional Learning in U.S. Schools: Findings from CASEL's Nationwide Policy Scan and the American Teacher Panel and American School Leader Panel Surveys." The report builds on the body of evidence that indicates well-implemented social/emotional learning (SEL) programs improve academic, and social/emotional outcomes for students and educators and shows more schools across the U.S. are incorporating SEL into students' educational experiences.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

SCA CALENDAR

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

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.**



Out and About

ASCA staff participated in the K-12 School Safety Summit.

ASCA staff participated in the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel meeting.

Jill attended a professional learning event sponsored by ASCA's auditors, GRF, about how trade and professional associations can maximize operating reserves.

ASCA staff participated in the U.S. Department of Education's family engagement listening session.

Amanda Fitzgerald met with The Education Trust about college and career readiness.

Jill met with Amanda Karhuse from the National Association for Music Education.

ASCA staff hosted a webinar for AAQEP on the ASCA Recognition for School Counselor Preparation Programs.

Out and About



PRESS

ASCA provided sources for the following publications:

- *Navigate Wellbeing Podcast* – A podcast episode on the impact of social media on children’s well-being.
- *Inside Higher Ed* – A story about school counselor workloads, burnout and perspectives on student attitudes toward college.
- *Education Week* – A story about recruiting more school counselors of color.