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For immediate release – Nov. 17, 2026

Shayla M. Thompson Selected as 2027 School Counselor of the Year Finalist



ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce Shayla M. Thompson is a finalist for the 2027 School Counselor of the Year® awards program (#SCOY27). Thompson is the school counselor and department chair at Alton C. Crews Middle School in Lawrenceville, Ga. The school serves approximately 1,400 students, grades 6–8. Thompson has been a school counselor since 2017. She received a bachelor's degree in human development and family science and a master's degree in professional counseling with a concentration in school counseling, both from the University of Georgia.

"As principal of Crews Middle School, I have witnessed firsthand her extraordinary leadership, innovation and unwavering commitment to the academic, career and social/emotional development of students, said Cindy Moffett, principal, Crews Middle School. "Shayla is not only an exceptional school counselor but also a transformational leader whose influence extends well beyond our school community. Her ability to build meaningful relationships with students, staff, families and community partners has strengthened our school's culture significantly. She embodies excellence in school counseling and continues to elevate the profession through her visionary leadership, service and unwavering dedication to students."

"Shayla approaches school counseling through the lens of the whole child," said Eboni Jones, reading connections teacher and parent of a Crews Middle School student. "She conducts ongoing minute meetings outside classrooms, prioritizing students who show early signs of stress or disengagement. She monitors friendship patterns and lunchtime dynamics, coaching students to build healthy peer networks and resolve conflict respectfully. Additionally, families routinely share that Shayla is the first school contact who both listens and equips them with strategies to bridge communication gaps at home."

"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*.