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Second Cohort of *Professional School Counseling Journal* Emerging Scholars Announced

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce the second class of Emerging Scholars for its flagship journal, *Professional School Counseling*. The [Emerging Scholars](#) program supports the next generation of school counselor educators and the profession of school counseling. School counseling doctoral students, as well as practicing school counselors and school counseling faculty in the first 3 years of their career are eligible to participate. The program is led by journal Emerging Scholars Associate Editors Dr. Emily Goodman-Scott (Old Dominion University), Dr. Sam Steen (George Mason University) and Dr. Rawn Boulden (North Carolina State University).

The following school counseling doctoral students and faculty were chosen for the 2026-2028 cohort:

- Josselyn Ayala, doctoral student, Regent University
- Leanne Campbell, faculty member, University of Central Oklahoma
- Veronica Douglas-Johnson, doctoral student, University of Holy Cross
- Bernell Elzey, Jr., faculty member, Antioch University
- Phylicia (Littleton) Fontenot, doctoral student, Regent University
- Jewell Jackson, doctoral student, University of Georgia
- Kelsey Kraemer, faculty member, University of Alaska
- Amy Lombardo, doctoral student, National Louis University
- Jacoby Loury, faculty member, University at Buffalo
- Ashley McGee, doctoral student, Georgia State University
- Morgan Meadows, doctoral student, Virginia Commonwealth University

2026-2028 Emerging Scholars



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Leanne Campbell



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Amy Lombardo



Jacoby Loury



Ashley McGee



Morgan Meadows



Dejanell Mittman



Keri Pannell



Carolyn Thorpe



Christine Marie Turner

- Dejanell Mittman, faculty member, Appalachian State University
- Keri Pannell, doctoral student, North Carolina State University
- Carolyn Thorpe, doctoral student, Bowie State University
- Christine Marie Turner, doctoral student, Old Dominion University

“We reviewed a record number of excellent candidates for the Emerging Scholars cohort,” said Dr. Steen. “Those selected are indeed emerging champions. Both those who were chosen as well as those who were not selected for the current cohort must continue to stand tall because the field needs you now more than ever.”

The purpose of the Emerging Scholars Program is threefold:

- Assist Emerging Scholars to advance their scholarship, understand the culture of academia and build community with others in a similar place in their career, including those who have been practicing school counselors and are seeking academic positions as school counselor educators.
- Improve research quality in the school counseling field, including developing proficient reviewers for and future scholars likely to publish in *Professional School Counseling*.
- Assist in diversifying the researcher and academic pipeline in the school counseling profession.



Emerging Scholars participate in a two- to three-year cohort (January 2026 – Summer 2028), developing and growing their scholarship and research interests, learning about academia, and engaging in reviewing select *Professional School Counseling* manuscripts. At the conclusion of this cohort, Scholars have the opportunity to apply to publish a manuscript in a special issue of *Professional School Counseling*, highlighting their unique and innovative scholarship through engaging in the peer-review process. Cohorts are recruited every three years. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

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 more than 40,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit www.schoolcounselor.org.