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Kristin D. Nye Selected as 2024 School Counselor of the Year Finalist



ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce Kristin D. Nye, lead school counselor, Anna P. Mote Elementary School, Wilmington, Del., as a finalist for the 2024 School Counselor of the Year awards program (#SCOY24). Nye has been a school counselor since 2005. The school serves 327 students, grades K–5. Nye received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Delaware, and a master’s degree from West Chester University.

“Kristin is the epitome of being a lifelong learner for equity and justice,” said Angela Johnson, school counselor, Anna P. Mote Elementary School. “When the world was turned upside down following the George Floyd tragedy, Kristin did not pretend to know what I felt as a mother and woman of color watching a man of color call for his mother as he died. Kristin instead went and did the work to understand how she could be not only an ally for people of color but an accomplice in supporting change and justice.”

Nye is proud that her elementary school is the first in her district to have a diversity club. With a predominantly minority population of multilingual learners, a significant focus of the school’s counseling and continuous improvement plans is on creating a learning environment where all students feel engaged and accepted. “Our club’s name highlights our purpose,” she said. “Bringing Awareness, Respect and Kindness while Practicing Acceptance, Courage and Kinship (BARK PACK) encapsulates our vision and mission to enact systemic change. Our focus is on the many different

types of diversity, from culture to race, gender identity, traditions to religion, abilities and everything in between,” she said. “We hope to become a model for diversity and inclusion in elementary schools in our district, as well as in our state.”

To Nye, the most rewarding aspect of being a school counselor is the impact school counselors can have. She is passionate about challenging traditional ideas about school counseling by helping people understand that mental health is health, and that school counselors are an integral part of education. Her work has led to a collaboration with local legislators in the process of crafting, supporting and advocating for mental health supports in education to be enshrined in state legislation.

“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 February 2024 and will participate in online events during National School Counseling Week, Feb. 5–9, 2024.

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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 51 state and territory associations and a membership of approximately 43,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit www.schoolcounselor.org.