



AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

Contact:
Cameron Thomas
(202) 955-5814
cthomas@voxglobal.com

FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS SCHOOL COUNSELOR NAMED AS FINALIST FOR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Heidi Green from Fayetteville, New York Among Top Eight

Alexandria, VA, January 25, 2010 – Heidi Green, Director of Counseling Services for Fayetteville-Manlius School District, has been named one of the top eight school counselors in America. Green is one of more than 250 elementary, middle, and secondary school counselors nationwide who were nominated for the School Counselor of the Year award. The award, which is presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates and often lifesavers for the nation's students.

As Director of Counseling Services for the district, Green's leadership includes coordinating and facilitating counseling services for the district, as well as supporting a caseload of high school students. One of Green's greatest accomplishments was implementing the use of Naviance, a web-based software program to assist students in the career planning and college process, to her school and many other high schools in Onondaga County. This technology provides access to data regarding careers and colleges and brings added enthusiasm to classroom seminars. It enables educators to evaluate and adjust programming and enhances data-driven decision making.

"Heidi's character is clearly built upon the foundation of hard work, ethical decision-making, and love of children," said Kelly Sajnog, Principal, Pine Grove Middle School. "She is truly a remarkable person and her dedication and contributions to the children of this school district are worthy of recognition."

Green is a strong leader in her field, serving on the Superintendent's Cabinet and as New York State delegate to the NACAC National Assembly (National Association for College Admissions Counseling). She is also the recipient of the Readling Award from SUNY Oswego (State University of New York), an honor for educational administration students given to a graduate who, by peer nomination, is voted most likely to make a significant contribution to the field. Green's leadership on curriculum mapping at Fayetteville-Manlius was one of the fundamental reasons for her nomination. She led the district's counselors in aligning the counseling curriculum to the ASCA standards, working to ensure accountability and support the development of all students in the school district.

The School Counselor of the Year awards program was open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. The top eight school counselors were nominated by their peers and administrators and judged by a select panel to be the "best of the best."

The candidates were judged on several criteria, including: creative school counseling innovations, effective counseling programs, leadership skills, and contributions to student advancement.

"School counselors make significant contributions to the overall well-being of students and their success," said Richard Wong, Executive Director, American School Counselor Association. "They have unique qualifications and skills that allow them to address students' academic achievement, personal/social and career development needs."

Green, along with the other seven finalists, will be flown to Washington, D.C., on January 27, 2010, for three days of celebratory events. The honorees will have meetings with their Members of Congress, attend a Congressional briefing and reception, and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala.

The legislative co-sponsors for the 2010 School Counselor of the Year program are: Senators Lisa Murkowski from Alaska and Arlen Specter from Pennsylvania and Representatives Raul Grijalva from Arizona and Vernon Ehlers from Michigan. The 2010 program is sponsored in part by Naviance, the Universal Technical Institute (UTI), and the American Federation of Teachers.

For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, please visit www.schoolcounselor.org.

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 professional school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic achievement, personal and social development, and career planning to help today's students become tomorrow's productive, contributing members of society. Founded in 1952, ASCA currently has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of more than 26,000 school counseling professionals.

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