



Contact:
Cameron Thomas
(202) 955-5814
(202) 538-3382 (cell)
cthomas@voxglobal.com

**SHEBOYGAN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
NAMED AS FINALIST FOR
SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR**
Steve Schneider from Sheboygan, Wisconsin Among Top Ten

Alexandria, VA, January 22, 2009— Steve Schneider, a school counselor from Sheboygan South High School, has been named one of the top ten school counselors in America. Schneider is one of more than 400 elementary and secondary school counselors nationwide who were nominated for the School Counselor of the Year award. The program, which is presented by Naviance and the American School Counselor Association, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates and often lifesavers for the nation's students.

Schneider, a counselor for thirteen years, currently serves as President of the Wisconsin School Counselor Association (WSCA). Schneider is a visionary leader in his profession and has accomplished a great deal in his career, including the development of the Support Personnel Accountability Report Card for Wisconsin (SPARC-W) and the WSCA Summer Leadership Academy. He has a natural talent for sharing his experience and knowledge with others and has presented at numerous conferences including the ASCA national and state level conferences and the Wisconsin state superintendent's conference.

Schneider's collaboration and leadership carry into his work at Sheboygan South where he serves as an agent of change, constantly advocating for his students. He recently worked with an Algebra teacher in the school to create a course for students who were struggling with the entry level math class. The Prescriptive Math course meets the individual needs of these students and includes units on academic self-perception and goal setting, which Schneider developed.

"Steve is a person with great integrity and genuine concern for serving students and his school counselor colleagues," said Tim Baneck, Coordinator of Career & Technical Education, Sheboygan Area School District.

The School Counselor of the Year awards program was open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. The top ten 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."

Schneider, along with the other nine finalists, will be flown to Washington, D.C., on January 28, 2009, 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.

Co-chairs of the 2009 School Counselor of the Year program are Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Cal.) and Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.). The 2009 program is presented by Naviance, a provider of planning and advising systems for secondary schools, and the American School Counselor Association.

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 25,000 school counseling professionals.

About Naviance

Naviance is the leading provider of planning and advising systems for secondary schools. Nearly 40,000 educators and counselors serving more than 3.5 million students in schools across the U.S. and in 60 other countries use Naviance products to manage academic and post-secondary advising, communicate with students and families, and analyze data. For more information about Naviance, visit www.naviance.com.

###