



AMERICAN  
SCHOOL  
COUNSELOR  
ASSOCIATION

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

CONCORD EAST SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
NAMED AS FINALIST FOR  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR  
*Marilyn Agee from Elkhart, Indiana Among Top Ten*

**Arlington, VA, January 22, 2009**—Marilyn Agee, a school counselor from Concord East Side Elementary School, has been named one of the top ten school counselors in America. Agee is one of more than 400 elementary, middle, 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.

Now in her 22<sup>nd</sup> year of counseling, Agee started her career in education as a classroom teacher 28 years ago. Agee is widely recognized for the creation and implementation of many programs, beginning with the Elementary Developmental Counseling program for Concord Community Schools. She also helped develop other programs for Concord Schools, such as the Student Assistant Program (SAP), which uses the team approach to assist at-risk students, and the Concord and Agency Resource Team (CART), which brings together school counselors, administrators and various outside agencies to help students and families. She also brought the Olweus Anti-bullying Program to her area and leads the student Bully Buster Leadership Team at her school.

Agee is the Elementary Level Vice President for the Indiana School Counselors Association (ISCA). She has a personal mission to mentor to new elementary counselors and recently reinstated the annual ISCA Elementary Counselor Retreat. Agee served on the writing team for the Indiana Department of Education's Counseling Program Standards and Student Counseling Standards and currently serves on the department's Counseling Steering Team. She is an admired leader in her profession and has received both the Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award (2002) from the Indiana Counseling Association and the Exemplary Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award (2007) from ISCA.

"Marilyn brings about systematic change in her school and district through her passion for counseling, knowledge, advocacy, leadership, and collaboration," said Lin Metzger, Executive Director, Indiana School Counselors Association. "Her counseling abilities meet the needs of her students, staff, parents, and community."

"Marilyn is the school counselor you wish you had when you were growing up," commented Matt Fleck, School Counseling Consultant, IDOE. "She is so dynamic, so passionate, so spirited and caring – she's like her own solar system wrapping everyone in her enthusiasm and caring. You can't help being pulled into her orbit."

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.”

Agee, 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](http://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](http://www.naviance.com).

###