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COLLINS HILL HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
NAMED AS FINALIST FOR  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR  
*Margaret Cheeley from Lawrenceville, Georgia Among Top Ten*

**Alexandria, VA, January 22, 2009**—Margaret Cheeley, a school counselor from Collins Hill High School, has been named one of the top ten school counselors in America. Cheeley 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.

Cheeley has been in counseling for nearly twenty years and works tirelessly for the best interest of her students. She is admired for the development of several unique initiatives including the school's "Graduation Team," a group of counselors, teachers, faculty, and community business partners who work together to help increase the school's graduation rate. Cheeley also created the EAGLES (Educate and Give Learners Effective Skills) Program in which high schoolers mentor at-risk middle schoolers to help them bridge the gap from middle to high school. Most recently, Cheeley works with Gwinnett County Public School Television to co-write and host a television show titled "ParenTVision: Connecting Parents With Teens." She also hosts a weekly Saturday radio show from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on 104.7 The FISH in Atlanta. In addition to her nomination for the national School Counselor of the Year, Cheeley was awarded 2007 State of Georgia Counselor of the Year.

"Margaret has a deep concern for those students identified as academically or behaviorally at-risk," said Glenn McFall, Principal, Collins Hill High School. "She is a great counselor in every sense of the word."

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."

Cheeley, 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).

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