



**School Counselor of the Year, Finalists, and State Representatives
To be Honored in White House Ceremony**

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ALEXANDRIA, VA – As part of her Reach Higher initiative, the First Lady of the United States will honor the 2016 School Counselor of the Year, finalists and state representatives on Jan. 28 at 11 a.m. in a ceremony at the White House. This is the second time the ceremony will be held at the White House. The ceremony will be live streamed on the White House website at <http://whitehouse.gov/live>.

The First Lady believes it is critical to show school counselors appreciation for all the hard work they do to put students on the path to and through college.

The 2016 School Counselor of the Year is Katherine Pastor of Flagstaff High School in Flagstaff, Ariz.. The School Counselor of the Year program selects a winner and finalists each year based on several criteria: creative school counseling innovations, effective school counseling programs, leadership skills and contributions to student enhancement.

The finalists are:

Kim Reykdal, Olympia High School, Olympia, Wash.
Kris M. Owen, Ridgeview STEM Jr. High School, Pickerington, Ohio
Durenda Johnson Ward, Centennial Campus Magnet Middle School, Raleigh, N.C.
Samantha Vidal, Creekside Elementary School, Franklin, Ind.
Robert Lundien, Staley High School, Kansas City, Mo.

The state representatives are:

Alabama

Constance Pewee-Childs, Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Middle, Tuscaloosa

Alaska

Natalie Kant, Skyview Middle School, Soldotna

Arkansas

Cindy Cossey, Noble/Allbritton Elementary School, Hamburg

California

Myrna Harp, Marina Village Middle School, El Dorado Hills

Colorado

Sarina Gonzales, Centaurus High School, Lafayette

Connecticut

Megan Johnson, King Philip Middle School, Hartford

Delaware

Judith Hayes, William Henry Middle School, Dover

District of Columbia

Lindsay Krishan Wright, Wheatley Education Campus, Washington, D.C.

Carletta Hurt, Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science, Washington, D.C.

Florida

Theresa Hartl, Seminole Ridge Community High School, Loxahatchee

Georgia

Stacey Miller, Roberts Elementary School, Suwanee

Hawaii

Geoffrey Jones, King David Kalakaua Middle School, Honolulu

Idaho

Connie Benke, Vallivue High School, Caldwell

Illinois

Franciene Sabens, Chester High School, Chester

Iowa

Candy Reed, Garfield Elementary School, Cedar Rapids

Kansas

Cristi Wightman, Indian Creek Elementary School, Olathe

Kentucky

Gina Crabtree, W.R. McNeill Elementary School, Bowling Green

Louisiana

Catherine Smith, Elton High School, Elton

Maine

Kathleen Welch, Coastal Ridge Elementary School, York

Maryland

Lisa Spera, Ebb Valley Elementary School, Manchester

Massachusetts

Wendy Rosazza, Granite Valley Middle School, Monson

Michigan

Sylvia A. Sanders, Lewis Cass Technical High School, Detroit

Minnesota

Pam Iverson, Stewartville High School, Stewartville

Mississippi

Breckin Harper, Brandon Elementary School, Brandon

Montana

Tana Mayo, Saddle Peak Elementary School, Belgrade

Nebraska

Thang Tran, King Science and Technology Magnet Center, Omaha

Nevada

Simeon Pak, Liberty High School, Henderson

New Jersey

Nicole Kerber, Overbrook High School, Pinehill

New Mexico

Vicki Price, Desert Ridge Middle School, Albuquerque

New York

Carol Miller, Lansing Middle School, Lansing

Oklahoma

Nick Hughes, Limestone Technology Academy, Sand Springs

Oregon

Marinda Peters, Fern Hill Elementary School, Forest Grove

Pennsylvania

Lisa Maloney, West Hempfield Elementary School, Irwin

Rhode Island

Stacy Haines-Mayne, Chariho Regional High School, Wood River Junction

South Carolina

Leroy York, Kelly Mill Middle School, Blythewood

South Dakota

Jacqueline Pew, Harvey Dunn Elementary School, Sioux Falls

Tennessee

Susan Roach, Jefferson County High School, Dandridge

Texas

Cynthia Powell, St. John's School, Houston

Utah

Jennifer Godin, James Madison Elementary School, Ogden

Virginia

Tess Short, John Rolfe Middle School, Henrico

West Virginia

Todd Roatsey, Pinch Elementary School, Elkview

Wisconsin

Andrea Donegan, Dyer Intermediate School, Burlington

Wyoming

Suzanne Scott, Rawlins Elementary School, Rawlins

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, career planning and social/emotional development 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 approximately 30,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit www.schoolcounselor.org.

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