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ASCA Announces 2018 School Counselor of the Year Finalists

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce the six finalists for the 2018 School Counselor of the Year awards program (#SCOY18). The award honors the school counseling professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation's students, helping them achieve success in school and in life.

The six finalists are:

- Crystal Brewer, Simpson Central School, Pinola, Miss.
- Erin Crooks, Georgetown Middle School, Georgetown, Del.
- Geoff Heckman, Platte County High School, Platte City, Mo.
- Cristina Nunez, Paso Del Norte School, El Paso, Texas
- Kirsten Perry, Lawndale Community Academy, Chicago, Ill.
- Cassie Poncelow, Poudre High School, Fort Collins, Colo.

From these six finalists, one will be named the 2018 School Counselor of the Year.

Nominations for the School Counselor of the Year awards program were submitted by the state school counselor associations. The School Counselor of the Year awards panel was composed of representatives from AASA: The

School Superintendents Association; ACT; the College Board; the National Association for College Admission Counseling; the National Association of Elementary School Principals; and representatives from Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington, Va.; Calhoun Area Career Center, Battle Creek, Mich.; Carolina Springs Middle School, Lexington, S.C.; Chris Yung Elementary School, Manassas Va.; T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, Va. The panel selected the finalists based on several criteria, including: school counseling innovations, effective school counseling programs, leadership and advocacy skills and contributions to student advancement.

"School counselors are significant contributors to the overall well-being of students and their success," said Richard Wong, Ed.D., ASCA executive director. "They are uniquely qualified to address students' academic achievement, career development and social/emotional needs. Through the School Counselor of the Year award, we are able to acknowledge their diligence, commitment and excellence."

The finalists and their principals will travel to Washington, D.C., in late January for three days of celebratory and educational events. The finalists will be honored in an award ceremony and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala.

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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 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, the school counseling division of the American Counseling Association,

has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of more than 33,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit www.schoolcounselor.org.