



## **Crystal Brewer Named 2018 School Counselor of the Year Finalist by the American School Counselor Association**



**ALEXANDRIA, VA** – Crystal Brewer, school counselor at Simpson Central School in Pinola, Miss., has been named a 2018 School Counselor of the Year finalist by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). Brewer, a graduate of William Carey University, has been a school counselor for 16 years and has been at Simpson Central School since 2001.

The School Counselor of the Year award honors professionals who devote their careers to advocating for the nation’s students and addressing their academic and social/emotional development and college and career readiness needs.

As the sole school counselor for Simpson Central (a K-8 school), Brewer was instrumental in helping the school achieve Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) status. “She collaborated with the faculty and staff to obtain buy-in to making an exemplary commitment to our comprehensive school counseling program,” says Principal Antionette Woodall.

Brewer’s work also helped Simpson Central School obtain ASCA’s first 2016 RAMP School of Distinction honor, which recognizes exceptionally high-caliber school counseling programs based on rankings determined by a panel of RAMP reviewers.

Brewer is responsible for supporting more than 500 students ranging from kindergarteners to eighth-graders. Due to her wide-ranging caseload, she is passionate about producing connection opportunities to support students on a more personal level. Girls Learning to be Outstanding Women (GLOW), a group Brewer developed, helps students tackle sensitive subjects such as body image,

self-esteem, friendship, relational aggression, romantic relationships and stereotypes. At a Valentine's Day Love Thyself Luncheon that Brewer hosts, she discusses the importance of self-acceptance, self-love and self-worth.

"There are not many people that will support you like she does. She's the realest person you'll ever meet," student Jameria Brown says.

Six finalists were selected for School Counselor of the Year based on their ability to create systemic change within the profession through leadership, collaboration and advocacy. All six finalists achieved increased student success through their comprehensive school counseling programs.

Brewer and the other finalists will be in Washington, D.C., Jan. 31–Feb. 2, 2018, where they will be honored at a special ceremony and 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 has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of more than 34,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).