



Erin Crooks Named 2018 School Counselor of the Year Finalist by the American School Counselor Association



ALEXANDRIA, VA – Erin Crooks, a school counselor at Georgetown Middle School in Georgetown, Del., has been named a 2018 School Counselor of the Year finalist by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). Crooks, a graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park and Monmouth University, has been a school counselor for 10 years and has been at Georgetown Middle School since 2009.

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

When Crooks realized Georgetown Middle School’s students and parents needed more opportunities to engage with the school, she joined forces with colleagues to develop a family-oriented college and career fair. More than 30 presenters provided hands-on demonstrations and engaging activities for students.

As Georgetown Middle School’s Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) coordinator, Crooks helped the school become the first in the district to achieve AVID certification. With her administrators, she has met with Delaware Senator Tom Carper and his team to discuss the role of school counselors and brief them about important initiatives happening on campus.

“Counseling is not just a job for Erin — it’s her life,” said Anita Costales, prevention specialist coordinator at LaEsperanza.org, one of the school’s community partners. “She is incredibly understanding and patient with

whomever she is dealing.”

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.

Crooks 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.

###

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.