



Geoff Heckman Named 2018 School Counselor of the Year Finalist by the American School Counselor Association



ALEXANDRIA, VA – Geoff Heckman, a school counselor at Platte County High School (PCHS) in Platte City, Mo., has been named a 2018 School Counselor of the Year finalist by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). Heckman, a graduate of Missouri Western State University and Northwest Missouri State University, has been a school counselor for 14 years and has been at PCHS since 2014.

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.

“Without his efforts, Platte County High School would not be able to achieve the success we have seen in such a short time,” says Principal Chad W. Sayre, noting that participation in Advanced Placement classes has increased since Heckman came on board.

According to Sayre, Heckman pursues collaborative opportunities with colleagues and community partners to create new programs and improve existing resources. Heckman works with the regional Northland Career Center and the Northland Center for Advanced Professional Studies to help all PCHS students regardless of their postsecondary ambitions.

Fellow school counselor Paige Schillig says Heckman is a strong advocate for building comprehensive, school counseling programs at PCHS and throughout the Platte County district. “Time after time, meeting after meeting, Geoff speaks up

in promoting our move to a comprehensive program for the district – not just the high school,” Schillig said.

Heckman’s student-centered approach is respected by the school’s families. One former PCHS parent reflected on how Heckman helped her son through personal challenges. His ability to be an impartial listener and supportive influence helped her son think through the immediate situation that was troubling him, she says.

“He has made a world of difference, not only in my son’s social, emotional and academic life, but in the lives of all the students and staff members who have had the pleasure of consulting him for advice, counsel or assistance,” the parent 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.

Heckman 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.