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## ERNESTO SERNA SCHOOL COUNSELOR NAMED FINALIST FOR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

*Tammi Mackeben, from El Paso, Texas, Among Top 10*

**Arlington, VA, January 7, 2008**—Tammi Mackeben, a school counselor from Ernesto Serna School, has been named one of the top 10 school counselors in America. Mackeben is one of more than 300 elementary and secondary school counselors nationwide who were nominated for the title as School Counselor of the Year. The program, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates and often life savers for the nation's students.

Current Texas School Counselor's Association Multi-Level Counselor of the Year, Mackeben has been working as a school counselor for the past eight years. She spends time in the classrooms on a regular basis presenting lessons on a variety of topics. She facilitates small groups and provides individual counseling as part of her programs. In addition, she provides training for the school's staff and holds regular parent meetings to ensure each student is taken care of.

"Mrs. Mackeben is extremely giving, humble, positive, and a champion for the profession," said Hilda M. Lopez, director of guidance and counseling, Socorro Independent School District. "She models leadership, advocacy, and collaboration to bring about systematic change both at the campus and district level."

The School Counselor of the Year contest was open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. The top ten school counselors were nominated by their peers and administrators and judged by a select panel to be the "best of the best."

The candidates were judged on several criteria including: creative school counseling innovations, effective counseling programs, leadership skills and their contribution to student advancement.

"School counselors make significant contributions to the overall well-being of students and their success," said Richard Wong, ASCA executive director. "They have unique qualifications and skills that allow them to address students' academic achievement, personal/social and career development needs."

Mackeben, along with the other finalists, will be flown to Washington, D.C., on Jan. 31, 2008, for two days of celebratory events. This will include meetings with their members of Congress, a White House private tour and special briefing, a congressional reception, and a black-tie gala where the finalists and the winner will be recognized.

### 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, personal and social development, and career planning 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 23,000 school counseling professionals. For more information, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).