



AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

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TREZEVANT CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER COUNSELOR NAMED SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Randy McPherson from Germantown, Tenn., Wins National Award

Alexandria, VA, January 21, 2011 – Randy McPherson, Ed.D., NBCT, NCC, NCSC, a school counselor from Trezevant Career and Technology Center in Memphis, Tenn., has been named the top school counselor in America. McPherson is one of more than 230 elementary, middle and secondary school counselors nationwide who were nominated for the School Counselor of the Year award. The award, which is presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates and often lifesavers for the nation's students.

A school counselor for more than 15 years, McPherson is an innovative thinker with the vision and compassion needed to work with students and families. Dr. Mc, as his students call him, goes the extra mile to ensure all students have the necessary resources and experiences that will prepare them for their post-secondary education and future careers. His work at Trezevant Career and Technology Center helped earn its distinction as one of 10 Model Alternative programs in the nation.

“Dr. McPherson has helped change the culture of a school serving at-risk students,” said Betty Russell, retired Career Enhancement Program instructor, Trezevant Career and Technology Center. “He provides a data-driven, comprehensive school counseling program that supports and challenges all students to excel in school and through their transition into life after high school.”

An example of the outstanding, innovative programming spearheaded by McPherson is the Summer Health Science Academy. Through this program, students earn a high school health science credit and participate in college and career discovery activities to learn about the health care sector, one of the largest industries in Memphis. Rising ninth-graders compete for a limited number of spaces in the summer program, which exposes them to a variety of health- and medical-related careers through guest speakers, mobile labs and field trips to some of the most advanced research and treatment centers in the world.

McPherson is a valued leader not only in his school but in his community and the field of school counseling. He currently serves on the state Career Development Committee, as well as the State Board of Examiners for Teacher Education. McPherson has taught graduate education classes at both the University of Memphis and Harding University and was recently honored as the 2010 Tennessee School Counselor Association Advocate of the Year. He is a National Certified School Counselor through National Board for Counselor Certification (NBCC) and a National Board Certified Teacher through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). He also currently serves as the chairman of the Board of Directors for MUM, a nonprofit service-oriented agency providing aid to the poor and poverty awareness training.

The School Counselor of the Year awards program was open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. The top 10 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 contributions to student advancement.

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

The nine finalists for the 2011 School Counselor of the Year are: Sandy Austin, Green Mountain High School, Lakewood, Colo.; Linda Brannan, NBCT, Cary High School, Cary, N.C.; Brent Burnham, Midway Elementary School, Midway, Utah; Teshaunda Hannor-Walker, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, Northside Elementary School, Albany, Ga.; Michelle Nichol James, NCC, NCSC, General Smallwood Middle School, Indian Head, Md.; Meri Kock, Hillsboro High School, Nashville, Tenn.; Terry Ann L. Malterre, Roosevelt High School, Honolulu, Hawaii; Christa Mussi, Dobson High School and Washington Elementary School, Mesa, Ariz.; and Anthony Pearson, Ed.S., Sky View Elementary School, Mableton, Ga.

McPherson, along with the nine finalists, will be flown to Washington, D.C., on Feb. 2, 2011, for three days of celebratory events. The honorees will have meetings with their members of Congress, attend a congressional briefing and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala.

The congressional co-chairs for the 2011 School Counselor of the Year program are: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Sen. Pat Murray (D-Wash.), Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Rep. Tom Petri (R-Wis.).

For more information on the American School Counselor Association, visit www.schoolcounselor.org.

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, the school counseling division of the American Counseling Association, currently has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of more than 28,000 school counseling professionals.

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