



### **Media Contact**

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## **American School Counselor Association to Host Nation's Top School Counselors and Experts for Education Event**

*Dr. Jill Biden to Recognize 2019 School Counselor of the Year Recipient*

**ALEXANDRIA, VA - Jan. 29, 2019** – Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States from 2009-2017, lifelong educator, and Honorary Co-chair of the Biden Foundation, will recognize the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) 2019 School Counselor of the Year, Brian Coleman of Chicago, Ill. at a special event hosted by the association. Presented in collaboration with the Former First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative, the event will bring together forty state school counselor of the year recipients, educators and expert researchers to discuss the importance and impact of school counselors.

The "Impact and Influence of School Counselors" event will begin at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Ted Allen, the Emmy-award-winning host from the Food Network, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Following the recognition of Coleman, the program will include a panel discussion about the impact of school counselors on social/emotional learning. Coleman, a school counselor at Jones College Prep; Michael Deuser, Ed.D., chief of college and career success for Chicago Public Schools; and Joseph Powers, Ed.D., principal at Jones College Prep, will share specifics about the social/emotional learning initiatives within the Chicago Public School system and their effect on students. Tim Shriver, board chair for The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, will serve as moderator.

The program will also introduce new ASCA grants-funded research reports that

substantiate how low student-to-school-counselor ratios in all K-12 schools positively affect student outcomes. John B. King, former secretary of education and president and CEO of the Education Trust, will deliver brief remarks followed by presentations from researchers Richard Lapan, Ph.D., of the University of Massachusetts – Amherst and Jennifer Parzych, Ph.D., of Southern Connecticut State University.

The School Counselor of the Year award, a signature program introduced by ASCA in 2008, honors professionals who devote their careers to advocating for the nation's students and addressing their academic, social/emotional development and college- and career-readiness needs. This is the fifth year Reach Higher has collaborated with ASCA to celebrate the work of school counselors across the country.

The event will be viewable via livestream on ASCA's website at [www.schoolcounselor.org/livestream](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/livestream).

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This event is open to press; however space is limited. Please submit your media RSVP by noon, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, via the following form:

<http://bit.ly/ASCAMediaRSVP> or contact Lachelle Metcalf, [lmetcalf@schoolcounselor.org](mailto:lmetcalf@schoolcounselor.org), (571) 329-4199.

*\*\*\*Note: RSVPs do not guarantee access. If we are able to accommodate your request, you'll receive an official approval notification via e-mail from a member of the American School Counselor Association staff after the RSVP deadline has passed.\*\**

### **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 and territory associations and a membership of approximately 36,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).

### **About the Reach Higher Initiative**

The Reach Higher Initiative, started by former First Lady Michelle Obama during her time at the White House, works to inspire every student in the U.S. to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college, or a four-year college or university. Reach Higher continues to help underserved students navigate the college-going process by raising awareness about helpful tools and resources; meeting students where they are and tailoring technical assistance to meet their unique needs; and building the capacity of the school counseling profession. The Reach Higher Initiative now lives at the Common Application, a non-profit membership organization dedicated to access, equity, and integrity in the college admission process. For additional information about Reach Higher Initiative and The Common Application, visit [reachhigher.org](http://reachhigher.org) and [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org).