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## **Marianne Matt Selected as 2022 School Counselor of the Year Finalist**



ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce Marianne Matt, school counselor, Capital High School, Madison, Wis., as a finalist for the 2022 School Counselor of the Year awards program (#SCOY22). Matt has been a school counselor since 2014. Capital High School serves 185 students, grades 9–12. Matt received her bachelor’s degree from Edgewood College and her master’s degree from Concordia University.

A firm believer in helping students discover their best postsecondary options, Matt spearheads a college and career fair every year. “I bring in members of the community from various careers students have expressed interest in as well as our local community college, apprenticeship recruiter and workforce development office,” Matt said. “This event provides students and staff with connections to our community and more ideas about what they would like to pursue in their futures. Students reflect on their hopes and dreams after the event and start to make moves on their futures.”

One student in particular attests to Matt’s passion for helping students find their postsecondary pathways. “During my last three months of my senior year, I had absolutely no plan on how I was going to attend college,” said Aniece Charmel Jackson, former Capital High School student. “I didn’t graduate with the best grades, and my parents didn’t have college tuition money. But Marianne didn’t let that stop me from pursuing an education after high school. She gave me a space to

voice my own opinion on what I wanted to do, gave me countless sources to apply for college grants, connected me with people in the fields I am interested in so I could ask questions and find the right path for me.”

Capital High School is a 90-90-90 school, with 90% of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, 90% BIPOC students and a 90% graduation rate. “As a school counselor committed to disrupting systems of oppression, Marianne has committed to the personal work of examining white supremacy culture and how it permeates her professional and personal life,” said Karyn Stocks Glover, principal, Capital High School. “She has remained deeply curious about the characteristics of white supremacy culture and how those characteristics impact working with BIPOC students and their families. Students who work with Marianne can expect asset-based, student-driven coaching that focuses on the students’ dreams first and the pathways to those dreams second.

“Each year, the School Counselor of the Year program shows us what the research tells us – that school counselors have a significant impact on students’ academic achievement, social/emotional development and plans for life after graduation,” said Jill Cook, ASCA executive director. “Through their dedication, contributions and excellence, these finalists have demonstrated their commitment to the values and mission of the school counseling profession.”

The School Counselor of the Year and finalists will be celebrated in Washington, D.C., in February 2022 and will participate in webinars and additional online events during National School Counseling Week, Feb. 7–11, 2022.

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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 and territory associations and more than 42,000 members. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).