WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? Our deaf and hard-of-hearing students are the everyday inspiration I wake up to being excited to work with, knowing they, too, can be anything they aspire to be.

WHAT WORDS DO YOU LIVE BY? It is what it is. This reminds me that at times there are circumstances beyond our control but to try to be in the present and focus on the now.

WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU WEREN’T A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? TV journalism/production, which was my bachelor’s degree in college. Or politics. Or the deaf version of “Ellen.”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? When students realize the “ah-ha!” moment. Their eyes light up, their smile widens, and they realize they can succeed.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU NEED INSPIRATION TO TACKLE ANOTHER DAY WORKING ON BEHALF OF YOUR STUDENTS? I often drive to a favorite spot by the bay and reflect. I reflect on how the day was, what I can do differently tomorrow or think about what tomorrow will bring and take peace with how the day went.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO BE PART OF A COMMUNITY OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL STUDENTS? As the first state school counselor of the year who is also deaf and working at a school for the deaf, it is important to be an active part of this community to bring about awareness for people who are deaf and/or have disabilities. Helen Keller famously said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

JOSEPH BATIANO
School Counselor
Rhode Island School for the Deaf

I AM ASCA

FAST FACTS
> WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY BINGE WATCHING? “THE GOLDEN GIRLS” (CLOSETED DOROTHY HERE)
> WHAT’S YOUR TYPICAL BREAKFAST? PINEAPPLE YOGURT WITH GRANOLA
> WHAT’S YOUR COFFEE ORDER? HOT CHAI
> WHAT SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD? TELEPATHY
> WHAT IS ONE THING YOU’RE REALLY GOOD AT? PERSISTENCE
> WHAT’S SOMETHING YOU THINK MOST PEOPLE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU? AVID WONDER WOMAN FAN

READ MORE ABOUT JOSEPH
WWW.SCHOOLCOUNSELOR.ORG/IAMASCA