

# I AM ASCA

## JOSEPH BATIANO

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**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."

**FAST FACTS > WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY BINGE WATCHING?** "THE GOLDEN GIRLS" (CLOSESET 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](http://WWW.SCHOOLCOUNSELOR.ORG/IAMASCA)

### 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."