



ISCA Press Release

For release after 4pm Friday, November 13, 2015

Indianapolis, IN- The Indiana School Counselor Association (ISCA) is pleased to announce the ISCA award winners, Gold Star Award winners and President Elect-Elect-Elect for 2015. These awards honor the professionals who devote their career to serving as advocates – and often lifesavers – for Indiana’s students.

The award winners are:

EXEMPLARY COUNSELOR EDUCATOR

Dr. Eric Green, Ph.D.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Dr. Eric Green is a professor, mentor, and guide to his students at Purdue University. He values and teaches his students to value data based decision making, social justice advocacy, leadership in schools, and transformative school counseling. Dr. Green not only supports students within schools, he also provides services within the community as a Disaster Mental Health Counselor and a Play Therapist. Dr. Green has written over 62 journal articles, books, and articles and shared several articles he authored in professional counseling publications such as Counselors for Social Justice and School Counselor. Dr. Green was awarded the Mary B. Arnold Anti-Oppression Award from the Counselors for Social Justice at ASCA’s 2013 conference. He models professional behaviors to his students by speaking at ACA, ASCA, and APT annually and invites students to join him. Dr. Green possesses a complete respect and concern for the well-being of all children.

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

Diana Bowman, Front Desk, School Counseling Office

Crown Point High School, Crown Point, IN

Diana is a jack of all trades. She serves as the front line of communication for students and parents at Crown Point High School. She assists with processing college supporting documents for both current and former students, plans and coordinates the annual Scholarship Night, monitors office aides, maintains the Counseling Department webpage, and assists the school Registrar (amongst other duties). Diana steps in and serves as “back-up” to enroll new students and withdraw students exiting the building along with other related tasks allowing the counseling office to continue functioning effectively. She always rises to the occasion when asked to assist with a task. She is the first person the counselors turn to when questions about procedures and processes within the school arise. Diana handles herself with empathy, compassion, and discretion in serving all of their more than 2,800 students.

OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR

Stacey, Schwuchow, Principal

Oak Hill Elementary School, Lowell, IN

Mrs. Stacey Schwuchow is the principal at Oak Hill Elementary School located in Lowell, Indiana. Stacey is always seeking ways to improve her school, and the education of her students. Stacey has collaborated with her school counselor to revamp and renew the school counseling program. Stacey is said to take time to listen and invest in any new or creative idea the school

counseling program has to offer, often times purchasing materials to meet the needs of the program. Stacey strives to ensure that all students are socially and emotionally healthy so that they may academically grow and thrive. Stacey is motivated to make Oak Hill Elementary School the best it can be for her students and staff.

WOMACK SCHOLARSHIP

Allison Joy

Graduate Student, Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne

As a teacher, Allison realized just how much home life and uncontrollable circumstances can drastically impact a student's education and development in the school setting. Allison is pursuing the career of school counseling to help make a difference and serve as a support to these students. Allison will put her education to work to meet her students where they are at, helping them to achieve their goals and overcome any obstacle that may come their way. Brian Dobias, her professor, is confident that Allison will become a successful and effective school counselor, and that numerous students will benefit from her passion and abilities.

Nicole Howard

Graduate Student, Indiana University- Purdue University, Fort Wayne

Nicole's passion, since she was a child, has revolved around helping others. Through working in the helping profession Nicole became inspired by those she witnessed overcoming their adversities. This inspiration directed Nicole to explore the career path of becoming a school counselor. Throughout her time in her graduate school program Nicole has spent many hours looking into, attending, and providing additional training and resources for not only herself, but her peers in the program. Nicole's professor, Kerrie Fineran, shared that she has shown exceptional academic ability, ingenuity, dedication to ethical behavior, and enthusiasm about the profession of school counseling.

EXEMPLARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Stephanie Kozuch

Clinton Prairie Elementary School, Frankfort, Indiana

Stephanie Kozuch is the counselor at Clinton Prairie Elementary in Frankfort, Indiana. Stephanie's passion and dedication to the career of school counseling is an essential part of her students' success. Stephanie's hard work and dedication have allowed her to implement a comprehensive school counseling program that is honored by both Gold Star and RAMP. Stephanie puts her heart into her work, spending countless hours advocating for her position and the school counseling profession. Stephanie has taken on many opportunities throughout her career that have lead to systemic change within in her school that directly impact her students' education and well-being. Stephanie's Principal, Joseph Walker, shared that she is always looking to better her entire student body on a daily basis, and that her desire to help students and staff is second to none.

EXEMPLARY MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Lauri Waldner

Noblesville West Middle School, Noblesville, Indiana

Lauri Waldner is the counselor at Noblesville West Middle School in Noblesville, Indiana. Lauri is dedicated to the career of school counseling. Lauri has spent much time continually improving the school counseling program in her building and throughout her corporation. When Lauri saw a need, she was quick to advocate for the implementation of a comprehensive elementary school counseling program within her district. Lauri also gives back to the profession by serving as an adjunct professor in the school counseling program at Butler University. Lauri is constantly pushing herself out of her comfort zone to better herself as a counselor, and best serve each of

her student's needs. Lauri is passionate about her career and sees it more than just a job, but a calling.

EXEMPLARY HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Sarah Graham

Peru High School, Wabash, Indiana

Sarah Graham is the head of guidance at Peru High School in Wabash, Indiana. The role of school counselor is something Sarah does not take lightly. Sarah has many times advocated for the role of the school counselor. Sarah consistently goes above and beyond to prove the need for her position through data, new programs, and training her staff in QPR. Last year Sarah helped create a mentor program for at-risk seniors. This allowed 29 of her students to create life changing relationships with adults in her building. This program exemplifies Sarah's attention to her students needs and dedication to making a difference in their lives. Sarah's counseling style and compassionate attitude help to meet the ever changing needs of her students in an ethical and effective way.

FRIEND OF YOUTH AWARD

The Indiana School Counselor Association awarded Community Health Network with this prestigious award for their ongoing work to eliminate youth suicide in our state. Their continued dedication to address this crucial topic has increased awareness, provided multiple training opportunities and worked to reduce stigma associated with mental health issues and suicide. ISCA applauds the work of Community Health Network and offers our support in the work for zero youth suicide in Indiana.

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - The Indiana School Counselor Association recognized Senator Pete Miller (R-Avon) and Representative Ed Clere (R-New Albany) as its Legislators of the Year at its annual conference in Indianapolis today.

Senator Pete Miller was selected based on his outstanding contributions to students and the school counseling profession. Sen. Miller has demonstrated a genuine commitment to school counselors through his continued advocacy for the profession. In recent years, Sen. Miller has authored bills calling for differentiated professional development for school counselors, as well as recognizing their qualifications through a language change to ensure that school counselors are no longer identified as guidance counselors.

“Senator Miller has embraced the role and impact of school counselors in the lives of Indiana students and has been a champion for our profession by advocating for the resources to provide the best possible service to our students and families. His ongoing commitment to Hoosier students is deeply appreciated.” Julie Baumgart, ISCA Government Relations Chair.

Representative Ed Clere demonstrated conspicuous leadership by advocating for a new program to equip school counselors with a Licensed Mental Health Certification. This certification will empower counselors with additional knowledge and skills and improves our ability to offer students an exceptional level of service beginning in elementary school. The new credential will result in more students receiving early intervention and preventative programming that could and should curtail problem behaviors that might otherwise surface later in students' academic careers.

“Rep. Clere is a passionate advocate for Indiana's students and its school counselors. We thank him for his service and leadership and look forward to working with him in the coming years to create the best environment possible for Indiana's K-12 student population.” Julie Baumgart, ISCA Government Relations Chair.

The Indiana School Counselor Association represents more than 500 men and women across the state whose passion is meeting the academic, social, emotional and personal development needs of children enrolled in K-12 schools across Indiana. Indiana's School Counselors promote student success through advocacy, collaboration, professional leadership, and data-driven practices. The Indiana School Counselor Association strives for excellence each day under the belief that when school counselors perform excellently, Indiana students benefit tremendously.

PARTNER AWARD WINNER

Marco Products is the outgrowth of three elementary counselors exchanging ideas among themselves. With no "prep" time, small budgets, and large caseloads, we pooled our resources in order to have materials.

When talking with others in the education field, we found they had the same problems as we did. This started us thinking that our materials would be useful to others in the education field. The result was Marco Products.

It was our thought then, as it is now, that our materials should be easy-to-use, affordable, and reproducible for the counselor to use with his/her students. As we became known, other practicing professionals asked if we would publish their materials. Thus, we began adding more products and soon were in the publishing business.

Today only one of the original counselors remains in the business, but Marco's philosophy remains the same. We publish only those materials which have been developed by practicing professionals and we are truly proud of the fact that we can bring to you what we consider to be the best and most reasonably priced selection of materials on the market.

Nominations for the Awards were submitted by counselors and/or their colleagues on the counselor's behalf. The ISCA Awards committee was made up of the 2014 School Counselor of the Year winners, Conference Committee members, ISCA Level Vice Presidents and Conference Chairs.

The Indiana School Counselor Association (ISCA) is pleased to announce the Gold Star Award winners (first-time applicants and renewal schools). The following schools received the [Gold Star Award](#) for the first time in 2015:

First-Time Recipients:

College Park Elementary School	Chayzee Smith
Deer Run Elementary School	LaToya Robinson
Eagle Creek Elementary School	Melissa Toney-Kelley
Perry Meridian 6 th Grade Academy	Christy Vance
South Newton Senior High School	Laura Robbins
South Spencer Middle School	Abbie Lawallin
Frontier Elementary School	Megan Ulrich

Renewal Schools

Creekside Elementary School	Samantha Vidal
Eastern High School	Christine Allred
Franklin Community Middle school	Monica Anderson
Jefferson High School	Halston Ziembo
Saint Joseph High School	Sheryl Suppinger
Taylor High School	Heather Baltz



ISCA PRESIDENT ELECTED FOR 2018-2019

Stephanie Kozuch was elected as the President for 2018-2019. Stephanie Kozuch became the school counselor at Clinton Prairie Elementary School in 2011 while finishing her Masters Degree in School Counseling at Butler University. She is a Nationally Certified Counselor as well as a recipient of the Indiana State Gold Star award and ASCA's RAMP award. She serves as the Elementary Level Vice President on the ISCA Board of Directors as well as a representative to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education Advisory Board. Last year Stephanie testified before the Indiana State Senate regarding Senate Bill 277 advocating for elementary counselors in schools across the State. She has also been involved with the Department of Education in helping to rewrite the Indiana Student Standards for Guidance and Counseling. She currently serves in her community as a member of the Clinton County College Coalition and as the County Disaster Mental Health Coordinator for the American Red Cross.

CURRENT Presidential Roles:

Dr. Brandie M. Oliver 2014-2015 Past President

Sarah Altman 2015-2016 President

Mark Friedmeyer 2016-2017 President Elect

Jennifer A. Money-Brady 2017-2018 President Elect Elect

ISCA Vision

The Indiana School Counselor Association (ISCA) empowers school counselors and school counseling graduate students to provide comprehensive school counseling programs through advocacy, collaboration, professional leadership, and practices that are student-centered informed by data. (Updated September, 2015)

Mission

The mission of the Indiana School Counselor Association is to support school counselors as they advance the academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students. (Updated July, 2015)

ISCA looks forward to more promising developments in the field of Professional School Counseling.

Submitted by Indiana School Counselor Association