

School Counselor of the Year Award

February 2016

The purpose of the school counselor of the year award is to recognize one outstanding professional who has made a positive impact in their school with students, teachers and parents. Contributions to the profession can be measured by the use of the ASCA National model, evidence of data-driven practices and the implementation of a comprehensive counseling program. In order to receive full consideration for the award the following items must be shown within the application packet:

- The nominee must be currently employed as a full-time counselor and have completed five years of counseling service at the time of nomination.
- The nominee must be a NCSCA member. Membership will be verified.
- The nominee must hold a master's degree and be certified as a school counselor.
- The nominee must show evidence of innovations in counseling, provide leadership on school committees and within the counseling office.
- The nominee must show evidence of use/implementation of the ASCA National Model
- The nominee must demonstrate leadership in the field of counseling as evidenced by presentations at state and national conferences, outstanding service in the community; and or submissions to state or national counseling journals.
- The activities or accomplishments referenced in the application must have taken place within the last five years.

Counselor Educator of the Year Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize a counselor educator for outstanding accomplishments in teaching, mentoring, and advising which has led to positively preparing individuals for careers as effective counseling professionals. The successful application will exhibit the following:

- The nominee must be currently employed as a full-time counselor educator for at least five years.
- The nominee must be a NCSCA member. Membership will be verified.
- The nominee must hold a master's degree or higher.
- The nominee must demonstrate evidence of the implementation of the ASCA National Model and have been responsible for creating an innovative school counseling education program.
- The nominee must show evidence of leadership with the faculty and involvement with the local community.
- The nominee must exhibit evidence of outstanding teaching and advising during their career and must demonstrate leadership in the field of counseling as evidenced by submissions to state or national counseling journals, presentations at conferences and outstanding service in the community.
- The activities or accomplishments referenced in the application must have taken place within the last five years.

Counseling Director/Coordinator/Administrator of the Year Award

The purpose of the counseling director/coordinator/administrator award is to provide an avenue to recognize those individuals who work in a supervisory role and support the counseling profession by their leadership and advocacy for the counselors in their school or district. These individuals should show evidence of leadership and service, which has had a positive impact on improving the counseling field, and the services offered by those they supervise. Applications should include the following:

- The nominee must be currently employed as a counseling director/coordinator/administrator and have served in that capacity for at least five years at their present position or a combination of positions.
- The nominee should be a NCSCA member. Membership will be verified.
- The nominee should have primary responsibility for working with counselors and other student support personnel.
- The nominee must demonstrate evidence of training programs and in-services provided to keep counselors abreast of current trends in counseling such as the ASCA National Model.
- The nominee must show the implementation of innovative counseling programs and where applicable provide support for pursuing ASCA RAMP status.
- The nominee must recognize the importance of school counselors within the schools and support attendance at workshops and conferences.
- The nominee must demonstrate evidence of implementing a comprehensive school counseling program and the ASCA National Model in the schools that they supervise.
- The activities or accomplishments referenced in the application must have taken place within the last five years.

Advocate of the Year Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding individuals whose advocacy of the profession has had an evident impact on the advancement of school counseling on the local, state or national level as demonstrated by systemic, policy or procedural changes. Nominees may be school counselors, administrators/supervisors of school counselors or school counseling services, legislators, school board members, parents, teachers, or community leaders. Applications should show evidence of the following:

- Advocate on behalf of the professional identity and field of school counseling.
- Show outstanding support and advocacy for expansion of existing and implementation of new school counseling programs.
- Advocate for the ability to meet students' academic, career, and personal/social needs in order for students to reach their fullest academic potential.
- Advocate for and promote comprehensive school counseling programs that are inclusive of diverse student, staff, and parent populations.
- Address systemic barriers that directly impact marginalized student populations' ability to have equal access to school services/programs.
- Advocate for students to receive appropriate community resource referrals in an effort to better assist them in being more effective and successful during the school day.
- The activities or accomplishments referenced in the application must have taken place within the last five years.

The Ruth McSwain Distinguished Professional Service Award

The purpose of this award is to honor an individual for distinguished professional service as exemplified by its first recipient and namesake, Ruth C. McSwain. It was instituted by the 1986-87 NCSCA Board of Directors to recognize a person who has made a special and noteworthy contribution to North Carolina's counselors, NCSCA and the counseling profession.

I. Eligibility for Consideration:

- a. The nominee may be any individual who has consistently supported and encouraged North Carolina's school counselors.
- b. The nominee must be an individual who has distinguished himself/herself for the quality of service he/she has rendered to the school counseling profession.
- c. The nominee must have been a member of NCSCA for a minimum of ten (10) years and served in the role school counselor for at least (5) of these years.
- d. The nominee must be a member of NCSCA.

II. Criteria for Recognition:

- a. The nominee should demonstrate significant involvement in professional organizations related to the school counseling profession.
- b. The nominee should promote the worth and potentialities of school counseling and school counselors.
- c. The nominee should serve as an ambassador of school counseling to non-counseling groups such as principals, superintendents, parents, and students, encouraging understanding of and partnership with school counselors.

III. Procedures for Nominations:

- a. Nominations may be suggested to Board members by any NCSCA member and solicited through the NCSCA newsletter and web site.
 - i. All nominations should be submitted in letter form through e-mail to the NCSCA Board of Directors.
 - ii. A minimum of two (2) supporting letters will be required to complete the nomination packet.
- b. A nominations committee composed of the current awards chairperson/committee and previous Ruth McSwain Award Recipients will be appointed by the NCSCA President.
 - i. The purpose of the nominations committee will be to receive and review all nominations.
 - ii. The nominations committee will present a slate of nominees to the NCSCA Board of Directors at the September Board meeting.
- c. The award recipient will be determined by the NCSCA Board of Directors through a secret ballot. The recipient must receive a majority of the votes cast by the NCSCA Board of Directors members present.
- d. The NCSCA Board of Directors reserves the right to decide not to present the award in any given year should such action be deemed appropriate.