



Media Contact

Nikki Ham
Maryland School Counselor Association
240-997-5943
nham@mscaonline.org

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Kathleen Klecan Receives Maryland School Counselor of the Year Award

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The Maryland School Counselor Association is pleased to announce that Kathleen Klecan of Frederick County, Brunswick Elementary School has been recognized as the Maryland School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association. Professional school counselors from across the state were nominated for their school counseling innovations and exemplary comprehensive school counseling programs. The nominees were evaluated by esteem evaluators that represent Maryland parents, school administrators, assistant superintendents, school counselors and teachers. They carefully reviewed the nominations and identified three level-specific school counselor of the year finalist: HS- Kristin Cavey, MS-Cathlin McCormick and ES-Kathleen Klecan based on several criteria, including, leadership and advocacy initiatives and contributions to student outcomes.

Kathleen Klecan was nominated by fellow school counselors, citing her enthusiasm and leadership at Brunswick Elementary School. Ms. Klecan works hard to develop, manage, implement and evaluate the comprehensive school counseling program at Brunswick Elementary School. She has created and paired a series of mini-lessons with groups she led to assist students having difficulty coping with the regulation of emotions. Her work has resulted in a more positive school climate, with an increase in student abilities to handle transitions and to exhibit self-control. When data from surveys showed a decline in the perception of overall respect, Ms. Klecan helped create a pattern of Monday morning meetings that are making a positive difference in the school. Finally, Ms. Klecan is a vital part of the school community, she has led a book study for teachers, on Fostering Resilient Learners. Fellow school counselor April Miller, Centerville Elementary School Counselor, shares that "Kathleen is a valuable member of the FCPS school counseling program through her leadership."

From Winters Mill High School in Carroll County, Kristin Cavey, through her work as the Department Chair of the School Counseling program promotes equity and access to opportunities for all students in the school. Ms. Cavey brought the Sources of Strength Program, a suicide prevention program, into the school. She has been instrumental in developing it into an organization that reaches out to all students across the peer group lines, letting them know they have friends and resources to turn to in times of need. One

nominator shared, "Ms. Cavey is vital to our school community on a variety of different levels."

Also from Carroll County, Cathlin McCormick from East Middle School. Ms. McCormick has worked with her school to implement Sources of Strength, as a best practice youth suicide prevention project designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide, bullying, and substance abuse to address the high number of attempts among adolescents in Carroll County. Ms. McCormick is described by a fellow teacher, Ms. Angela Wilhide, as "Cathlin goes above and beyond helping the students in our community allowing them to learn their self-worth, know their ability and become self-confident young adults. Cathlin's first priority is always our students."

The Maryland School Counselor Association will formally honor these professionals at its National School Counseling Week gala on Friday, February 7 at DoubleTree by Hilton Annapolis, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD. At this event, the association will also recognize, Administrator of the Year Allison Seymour (Pikesville High School, Baltimore County), the Advocate of the Year, Elizabeth Faison, Director of Students for Prince Georges County Public Schools, School Counselor Educator of the Year, Dr. Ileana Gonzalez (John Hopkins University), Graduate Student of the Year Jessica Martin (University of Maryland, Eastern Shore) and Cassandra Thomas of Carole Highland Elementary School (Prince Georges County Public Schools) for the development, management, implementation and evaluation of a Recognized ASCA Model Program. Finally the Maryland School Counselor Association will honor two high school scholarship recipients for their wonderful essay sharing the amazing support they receive from their Maryland School Counselor Association school counselor. These recipients are Lindsay Poler from Long Reach High School in Howard County and her school counselor is Margaret Jones. Paige Sevinsky from Allegany High School in Allegany County and her school counselor is Amy Llewellyn.

Registration is open until January 30 at <http://www.mscaonline.org/>.
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The Maryland School Counselor Association is a professional association that provides opportunities for professional development, networking, and advocacy for the state's public and private school counselors, as well as school counseling graduate students and counselor educators. School counselors plan and implement a needs-oriented, data-driven comprehensive program using foundation, management, delivery, and accountability components that support all students' academic, career, and social-emotional development. The Maryland School Counselor of the Year will be nominated for the national School Counselor of the Year, managed by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). National School Counseling Week, February 3-7, 2020, is an annual event to recognize and celebrate the efforts and value of school counselors and the work that school counselors do to support all students.