Heather Quill Selected as 2023 Maryland School Counselor of the Year

LA PLATA, MD – The Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA) is pleased to announce Heather Quill, School Counselor (Lincoln Elementary School, Frederick, Maryland) is being honored as the 2023 School Counselor of the Year, and will be representing the state of Maryland at the national level with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) later this year. Heather has been a school counselor since 1999.

Lincoln ES principal Eric Rhodes, shared, “Mrs. Quill is a constant cheerleader to build the culture that surrounds her to reassure that each person feels heard and supported. During the pandemic, Mrs. Quill created and continues to create daily lessons for classroom instruction and recorded videos that are relevant to the needs of our students. Her ability to network and connect with various organizations to partner together to support our families in need is like no other. Her involvement and connectivity that she delivers to provide our families with the best support is profound.

“Each year, the School Counselor of the Year program shows us what the research tells us – that school counselors have a significant impact on students’ academic achievement, social/emotional development and plans for life after graduation,” said Jill Cook, ASCA Executive Director. “Through their dedication, contributions and excellence, these finalists have demonstrated their commitment to the values and mission of the school counseling profession.” ASCA celebrates state School Counselors of the Year finalists each year prior to National School Counseling Week.

The Maryland School Counselor Association will formally honor the Maryland School Counselor of the Year on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at the President’s Reception Awards Ceremony during our annual spring conference. This year, the event will be held at 5 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland. At this event, the Association will also recognize the following winners:

- Kathryn (Katie) Mendelson, Maryland Middle School Counselor of the Year School (Kingsview Middle School, Montgomery County Public Schools)
- Irene Khaksari, High School Counselor of the Year (Centennial High School, Howard County Public School System).
• Matthew Schwarzenberg, Novice School Counselor of the Year (South Carroll High School, Carroll County Public Schools)
• Karla Steinbach, Administrator of the Year (Principal, Meade Middle School, Anne Arundel County Public Schools)
• Kira Schuman, Advocate of the Year (UniServ Director at Maryland State Education Association, Howard County)

About the Maryland School Counselor Association
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, which occurs February 6-10th this year, 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.