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School Counselors Celebrate During National School Counseling Week, Feb. 6–10, 2017

Jefferson City, Missouri — National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), will be celebrated from Feb. 6–10, 2017, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as a result of what school counselors do. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

The special week honoring school counselors provides recognition for school counselors who "implement comprehensive school counseling programs, a vital part of the educational process for all students as they meet the challenges of the 21st century," according to Sarah Dix, president of the Missouri School Counselor Association.

School counselors are actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents; for working in a partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world; for focusing on positive ways to enhance students' social/personal, educational and career development; and working with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves. Professional school counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master's degree in school counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program.

"School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing students' academic concerns, career awareness in post-secondary options and personal/social skills," said Kwok-Sze Wong, Ed.D., ASCA executive director. "Comprehensive school counseling programs help to increase student achievement and provide a much-needed resource for students, parents, teachers and administrators. School counselors are integral to student success."

More than 100,000 school counselors nationwide will be participating in the week's festivities. Many school counselors will be hosting special events and activities to call attention to the myriad benefits of a comprehensive school counseling program.

School counselors throughout the State of Missouri will be celebrating this special week through a variety of activities that emphasize the benefits of a comprehensive school counseling program, and how this program can positively impact achievement, attendance, and school climate. Parents or community members with specific questions or concerns about school counseling

programs should contact the school counselors at their local schools, or the office of the Missouri School Counselor Association at <http://www.moschoolcounselor.org>. More general information can also be found on ASCA's website, <http://www.schoolcounselor.org>.