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Striving for Gold

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Striving for Gold

by Dr. Brandie Oliver, Pres. of IN School Counselor Assoc./Asst. Prof. at Butler Univ. & Dr. Nick Abel, Butler Univ.

Have you ever heard of a school receiving the Gold Star School Counseling award? In Indiana, schools that work to design and implement a comprehensive school counseling program can earn the status of a Gold Star recognized school. This process is a team led approach, one in which the effort is led by a school counselor but the work, vision, and responsibilities are shared with multiple key stakeholders within the school community. As the school principal, you play an integral role in this process. Your support of the school counseling program is vital to the success of the design, delivery, and management of the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program.

According to the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), comprehensive school counseling programs are driven by student data and based on standards in academic, college/career, and social/emotional development. They “promote and enhance the learning process for all students,” and are essential to developing effective, developmentally appropriate, data driven schools with the ability to address all students’ individual needs. Additionally, comprehensive school counseling programs are designed to find the achievement gaps and work toward programming to address the gaps within the school environment. Ask your school counselor about the process of building a comprehensive school counseling program!

I want to end this month’s article sharing a snapshot from our annual conference. Each November, the Indiana School Counselor Association holds our conference offering multiple opportunities for professional development unique to the needs of school counselors. On the final day of our conference, we come together to award and recognize the great work of school counselors across the state. At our Awards Luncheon we recognize schools receiving Gold Star for the first time, schools that have gone through Gold Star renewal, and individuals receiving special awards based on their service, dedication, and commitment to Hoosier students. Below is the list of the recognized schools and individuals. Congratulations to all of this year’s award recipients!

Exemplary School Counselor Awards

Elementary School Counselor: Samantha Vidal, Creekside Elementary School

Middle School Counselor: Dana Strabavy, LaSalle Intermediate Academy

High School Counselor: Greg Chaffin, Bloomington High School North

Counselor Educator, Bonnie Colon, Purdue University Calumet

Other Awards

*Outstanding Administrator: Nikki Harrison, Maple Elementary School

Supportive Staff: Jean Zimmerman, Western Boone Jr./Sr. High School

Friend of Youth: Prevent Child Abuse Indiana

Legislator of the Year: Senator Jim Merritt

Legislator of the Year: Representative Christina Hale

First Time Gold Star Recipients

Central Elementary School

Corydon Central High School

Crown Point High School

Indiana Connections Academy

Providence Jr./Sr. High School

Vienna-Finley Elementary School

Renewed Schools

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School

Cardinal Ritter High School

Deer Ridge Elementary School

St. Theodore Guerin High School

Haverhill Elementary School

Lincoln Middle School

Madison Consolidated High School

Madison Consolidated Junior High School

Wilbur Wright Middle School

*Each year ISCA is proud to honor an outstanding administrator that works collaboratively and supports the work of the school counseling program in his/her building. As administrators, your work, leadership, and commitment to our schools is valued and appreciated. On behalf of the Indiana School Counselor Association, thank you for all you do each and every day!

Please contact me with any questions if you are interested in working toward a comprehensive (data driven) school counseling program to better serve all student needs.