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types of diversity, from culture to race, gender identity, traditions to religion, abilities and everything in between," she said. "We hope to become a model for diversity and inclusion in elementary schools in our district, as well as in our state."

To Nye, the most rewarding aspect of being a school counselor is the impact school counselors can have. She is passionate about challenging traditional ideas about school counseling by helping people understand that mental health is health, and that school counselors are an integral part of education. Her work has led to a collaboration with local legislators in the process of crafting, supporting and advocating for mental health supports in education to be enshrined in state legislation.

"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."

The School Counselor of the Year and finalists will be celebrated in Washington, D.C., in February 2024 and will participate in online events during National School Counseling Week, Feb. 5–9, 2024.

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The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide