NMSCA SCOTY
School Counselor of the Year Award
Application Process

Introduction

The NMSCA School Counselor of the Year (SCOTY) Award is aligned with and modeled after the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year (SCOY) Award. NMSCA seeks to recognize a New Mexico School Counselor who follows best practice in his/her comprehensive school counseling program.

The School Counselor of the Year will be honored at the New Mexico Counseling Association (NMCA) Conference at the New Mexico School Counseling Association (NMSCA) Luncheon.

All nominees who complete the application process will automatically become semi-finalists. From these semi-finalists, one school counselor of the year is selected. NMSCA will submit the SCOTY and 2 finalists as nominees for the ASCA SCOY. Nominees will be strongly encouraged to complete the ASCA SCOTY application in the same year.

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS - See Website

During the application process, you will need the following:

- Number of students at your school
- Number of students in district
- Number of staff at school
- Number of school counselors
- Percentage of special education students
- Percentage of students on free or reduced lunch
- Percentage of students who are Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native America, White, and Other
- Your resume as Word document or PDF

o Must include name, current position, school name, years at current school, education, professional experience, leadership experience, memberships, awards/certifications/publications

• Three letters or recommendation – maximum of two pages each

• Video - a 3-5 minute video that showcases the applicant, the school, and the school counseling program. Provide the video via email, web link, thumb drive, or CDRW/DVD. Be creative. Make sure we can hear and see you clearly. Be sure to comply with school/district policies regarding taping of students prior to filming.

Accepted video file formats are .wmv, .mov, .mp4, and .flv. Recommended video resolution is 640 x 480 or 640 x 360 (widescreen). Please ensure your video file size is less than 250MB to ensure the upload process goes smoothly.

Application questions you should be prepared to answer:

1. Give examples of ways you have advocated for the profession throughout your career.
2. What were two or three of your school counseling program goals last year, and how did you address them? Use data to show your progress in meeting these goals.
3. Give an example of a particularly effective collaborative effort you spearheaded with a stakeholder population (administrators, faculty, parents and/or the community).
4. What types of professional development opportunities have you participated in throughout your career, and how has this contributed to your continual professional learning?
5. How does your comprehensive school counseling program use advocacy, leadership, systemic change and collaboration to make a difference for students?

Eligibility:

A. The applicant must be employed as a full-time, NM-based, practicing school counselor for at least one year prior to the application due date.
B. The applicant must have completed at least five years as a practicing school counselor.
C. The applicant must hold a master's degree in school counseling or equivalent and be licensed as a school counselor by the New Mexico Public Education Department.
D. The applicant must be an NMSCA and ASCA professional member for at least one year prior to the application due date.
E. The applicant must not have been an NMSCA School Counselor of the Year finalist within the past five years.
F. Nominees cannot be a previous NMSCA School Counselor of the Year or an ASCA School Counselor of the Year. In addition, they cannot have been an NMSCA finalist during the previous five years. There are no restrictions on re-nominating semi-finalists.
G. The applicant must have been nominated by his or her peer(s) and/or administrator(s).

Selection Criteria:

A. The applicant must demonstrate evidence of implementation of a comprehensive, data driven school counseling program (such as the ASCA National Model®) and have been responsible for school counseling innovations or further development of programs supporting students' academic, career, and social/emotional development.

B. The applicant must demonstrate leadership and collaboration in his or her work and promote equity and access to opportunities and rigorous educational experiences for all students to maximize student achievement.
C. The applicant must also demonstrate collaboration with stakeholders. The activities or accomplishments recognized must have taken place within the previous five years. D. The applicant must demonstrate continual professional development as well as proof of advocacy for the profession and/or students.
E. The applicant must have the ability and skills necessary to represent the school counseling profession in a professional manner, including but not limited to high-quality written communication and public-speaking skills.
F. The applicant should maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and recognize that his/her personal conduct is held up to public scrutiny. Applicants strive to be model citizens of their community as well as the school counseling community and their broader professional community. They maintain high moral standards in their personal and professional conduct.
G. All applications are thoroughly reviewed by NMSCA School Counselor of the Year Judging Committee. Judges' decisions are final. All applications are screened for eligibility prior to review. All finalists agree to participate in NMSCA sponsored professional development activities including but not limited to webinars and podcasts that are connected to the SCOTY.

All finalists agree to allow NMSCA to nominate them for the ASCA SCOY Award. These nominees are strongly encouraged to complete the ASCA SCOY application. Complete Applications should be mailed on a thumb drive or emailed with appropriate access links on or before the April 15th deadline to: **New Mexico School Counselor Association, 2508 Gretta St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112** Please note: Any information or materials mailed will not be returned