



NEWS RELEASE

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Gwinnett educators receive state counseling honors: State's top counselor hails from Five Forks Middle School

Four Gwinnett County Public Schools counselors and two administrators earned state recognition from the Georgia School Counselor Association, (GSCA) with **Laura Ross of Five Forks Middle School** earning the organization's top honor.

Gwinnett's state honorees are as follows:

GSCA School Counselor of the Year: Laura Ross of Five Forks Middle School

Laura Ross, Gwinnett County's 2018 Middle School Counselor of the Year, now moves on to national consideration for the American School Counselor Association School Counselor of the Year award, representing Georgia.

In nominating her for the county recognition, Five Forks Middle School Principal Christine Douthart said that Ross always has the best interests of students at the heart of everything she does. She shared, "She is without a doubt a true champion and reminds all of us that our connections with students can make all the difference in the world."



GSCA School Counselor of the Year- Semi-Finalists

Sherry Ferguson of Ferguson Elementary School
Bobby Gueh of Lanier High School

Administrator of the Year Award:

Christine Douthart, Principal of Five Forks Middle School

Writer of the Year Award:

Teshia Dula of Hull Middle School

Advocate of the Year

Anthony Smith, Former Duluth High School Principal who currently serves as GCPS Associate Superintendent of High Schools

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Karen Griffith, (Retired) GCPS school counselor who previously served at Berkeley Lake Elementary School

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2010 and 2014 Winner of



-more-

The GSCA awards are bestowed upon deserving individuals every year in recognition of their outstanding commitment to, performance in and support of school counseling.

The GSCA is a private, non-profit association comprised of school counselors, counseling and guidance directors, supervisors, administrators, counselor educators, and other individuals involved in related activities who have an impact on a student's success and well-being at school, work and home. Founded in 1949, GSCA has grown to a membership of more than 1,000 members. GSCA has been instrumental in setting professional standards for the school counseling profession in Georgia. GSCA assists counselors in delivering more effective services by providing the means and information to enhance their skills, by supporting self-evaluation, and by conducting research to measure counselor effectiveness. Professional development programs and activities help maintain high standards and encourage quality performance. GSCA speaks for school counselors at the state and national levels through strong public relations and government relations programs and activities. GSCA members work in all educational settings from elementary through postsecondary education. GSCA and its members are committed to the continuing development of the school counseling profession.