



# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Gwinnett counselor named finalist for national honor**

A **Five Forks Middle School** counselor has been named one of the best counselors in the nation. **Laura Ross** is one of four finalists for the **American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) 2020 School Counselor of the Year award**. The award honors exemplary school counseling professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation's students, helping them achieve success in school and in life.

Nominations for the School Counselor of the Year awards program were submitted by ASCA-affiliated state school counselor associations. The School Counselor of the Year awards panel included representatives from AASA: The School Superintendents Association; the College Board and the National Association for College Admission Counseling; as well as representatives from Francis Scott Key Elementary School, Arlington, Va.; Jones College Prep, Chicago, Ill.; Potomac Senior High School, Dumfries, Va.; Poudre High School, Fort Collins, Co.; Stone Hill Middle School, Ashburn, Va.; and St. Theresa School, Ashburn, Va. The panel selected the finalists based on several criteria, including school counseling innovations, exemplary comprehensive school counseling programs, leadership and advocacy skills, and contributions to student outcomes.

The finalists and their principals will travel to Washington, D.C., in late January for special celebratory and educational events, including a black-tie gala.

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