



## **Katherine Pastor Named 2016 School Counselor of the Year**



**ALEXANDRIA, VA** – Katherine Pastor, a school counselor at Flagstaff High School in Flagstaff, Ariz., has been named the 2016 School Counselor of the Year. The award, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation’s students and addressing their academic and social/emotional development and college and career readiness.

“Kat embodies what it means to be a professional school counselor,” said Amanda Gabbitas, school counselor, Flagstaff High School. “She goes above and beyond her duties to ensure she is providing services to all students, improving herself and our department through professional development, and advocating for our profession. In the three years I have known Kat, I have learned more about being a school counselor than I could have ever imagined. I feel it is an honor and a privilege to serve our students alongside Kat.”

“She is often sought out in the community and school by parents who recognize her as a person who commits to the success of their children,” said Tony Cullen, principal, Flagstaff High School. “She has also had exceptional results in reaching out to community resources in making them part of our school operations and having our students benefit from those resources.”

"Katherine's success is the result of her drive to elevate the profession of school counseling combined with an unparalleled ability to inspire others to get involved," said Anne Lassen, assistant vice president, Flinn Scholars Program, Flinn Foundation. "There are many people in the profession waiting for change to happen at higher levels, but Katherine is one of the few people who consistently looks for ways she can have a positive impact not only her own career but the career of all school counselors. Her passion for the profession and unyielding integrity make her an indispensable asset to any school, and we are fortunate to have her in the state of Arizona. I am a better professional for having had the opportunity to work with Katherine."

The School Counselor of the Year winner and finalists were judged on: creative school counseling innovations, effective school counseling programs, leadership skills and contributions to student advancement. Pastor, along with the five School Counselor of the Year finalists, will be flown to Washington, D.C., in late January 2016. The honorees will have meetings with their members of Congress, attend a congressional briefing, be honored in a White House ceremony and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala.

### **About the American School Counselor Association**

The American School Counselor Association is a nonprofit organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of professional school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic, career and social/emotional development to help today's students become tomorrow's productive, contributing members of society. Learn more at [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).