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## Connect & Educate

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# CONNECT & EDUCATE

BY BRANDIE OLIVER



I'm excited to start my year as your president and look forward to sharing my journey with all of you! I thank all the past presidents of ISCA that I've known over the years; they have been outstanding role models and a huge inspiration for me as I look to my future leadership role as president.

Our profession is at a critical juncture as we are faced with clearly defining our role as school counselors. This year at ASCA's Leadership Development Institute, we focused much of our time and attention on defining our professional identity as school counselors. We all need to be intentional about educating others about our unique training in all three domains: academic, career, and social/emotional. We also need to advocate for our profession, emphasizing that we are the right people in the building to provide all of these services to our students.

One of the great perks of being your president is that I am afforded the opportunity to attend ASCA. This year's sessions were thought provoking and relevant to the challenges we face in Indiana. At the conference, we all were introduced to the new national standards for students K-12, ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success. These standards describe the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students need to achieve academic success, college and career readiness, and social/emotional development. Second, it was an honor to hear First Lady Michelle Obama thank school counselors for all of our work! She shared the components of the Reach Higher Initiative, which aims to inspire all students in America to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college, or a four-year college or university. *Learn more about the Reach Higher Initiative.*

*Let's work collaboratively  
to educate all stakeholders  
on the impact that school  
counselors make on the lives  
of our students.*

I welcome our new members to the ISCA Board: Susan Kleinman, Government Relations & Legislative co-chair; Stephanie Kozuch, Elementary Level co-VP; Nicole Detrick, Secondary Level VP; Melba Salmon, Evidence-Based chair; Amy Marsh, Career Pathways chair; Cindy Cain, Advocacy chair; and Lauren DeWees, Conference co-chair. Our board members have so many cool ideas for the upcoming months... please stay tuned! Don't forget to join us at the annual fall conference on November 6-7 at the Indianapolis Marriott East. *Get additional details on our website.*

Finally, as the incoming president, I see one of my major roles as a facilitator of members' needs. We are very open to listening to our members and we are interested in learning about your concerns. Your ideas will help improve our organization's commitment to providing the highest quality programming and professional development opportunities. Please know I sincerely hope that each and every one of you will send us your ideas, thoughts, and critiques (constructive, please) for making this a better organization. Let's work collaboratively to educate all stakeholders on the impact that school counselors make on the lives of our students. Please share your successes with us! We need to make our voices heard. ■■■

Contact Dr. Brandie Oliver, ISCA president, at [bmoliver@butler.edu](mailto:bmoliver@butler.edu) or follow her on Twitter: @ButlerPSC

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