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A TIME FOR REFLECTION, REJUVENATION, AND RESPONSIBILITY

BY BRANDIE OLIVER



The ISCA conference is one of my favorite times, as I am surrounded by people who love what I love—school counseling. As I reflect on this year's conference, two major themes emerge. First, there is our unwavering passion, service, connection and commitment to the students in our care. Throughout the conference, I had the privilege of witnessing hundreds of school counselors from across the state, engaging in critical dialogue that focused on how to better meet the needs of Indiana students.

Also, during the standing-room-only session on legislative affairs, I listened to the articulate and passionate voices of school counselors advocating for our profession. We recognize that it is our responsibility to forge our own professional identity. As school counselors, we utilize every opportunity to educate those who may not have a clear understanding of our roles and responsibilities.

For those who were able to attend, I thank you for your participation in this special event. When we, as educators, take the time to learn, grow, and connect our thinking, we are modeling the very type of thinking and learning we want our students to do in our schools. It is through the challenging yet enjoyable work you are doing at this conference that students across Indiana will become stronger and more motivated to explore the world around them. School counselors do not often get the opportunity to sit and discuss our professional concerns. I hope you were rejuvenated by the opportunity to connect with others who share the same commitment, passion, and vision that you hold for school counseling. I also hope you enjoyed our few days together and were inspired to bring new ideas and renewed enthusiasm back to your schools and communities.

During the conference, ISCA shared our commitment to the vision to ensure that every elementary school student would have access to a licensed school counselor in the building. We are committed to making this vision a reality by continuing to work with our legislators and community leaders to demonstrate the profound impact school counselors have on our students. It is critical that you do the same by advocating for our profession and sharing the amazing work you do each and every day. This is not a challenge I issue lightly. I am here to support you in this honorable endeavor. ISCA is here to support you. The conference provided a space to share our vision, but now we must act on this vision.

In closing, I hope you all continue to find time to reflect, rejuvenate, and take personal responsibility to move forward our profession through advocacy, outreach, and education. ■■■

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