



Carrie Skeens Named 2021 Colorado School Counselor of the Year

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Colorado –

Carrie Skeens, school counselor at Edison Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, has been named the 2021 Colorado School Counselor of the Year by Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA). Skeens is a graduate of University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, has been a counselor for nine years and has been with Edison Elementary since 2018.

The award honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates – and often lifesavers – for their students.

Principal, Kevin Willis, says that Skeens is considered a “shining star” not only at Edison, but in Colorado Springs School District 11. Her enthusiasm, creativity, and pure desire to support students and families is second to none.

“Carrie Skeens is a lifelong learner that is dedicated to continuing her practice and provide students with the most current resources and practices. She has been a member of the Colorado School Counselor Association for the past several years and attends the annual conference regularly. You will also frequently see her doing online webinars with experts such as Dr. Ruby Payne and Dr. Ross Greene to learn new strategies to stay up-to-date. Not only does she take the time to better herself, she uses this knowledge to better current school counselors and aspiring school counselors. As a member of the first CSSM cohort in the district, she has been chosen by the district counseling department to be a member of the school counselor leadership team and a district mentor. Carrie has also hosted interim and practicum students to help support and develop quality school counselors for generations to come.”

Mrs. Carrie Skeens is making a difference in the lives our students, says Ms. Karolyn Dicken, parent and Learning Coach at Edison Elementary.

“Not only am I a colleague, I am a parent of two Edison students who have both benefitted greatly from the influence of Ms. Skeens. Both of my kids have come home discussing lessons that were taught during the weekly Random Acts of Kindness lessons. We even had a moment at home when my kindergartener was frustrated and was able to implement a strategy that had been referred to by Ms. Skeens in a class lesson. For a kindergartener to be able to incorporate a calming approach that was taught speaks volumes to me about the difference Ms. Skeens is making in the lives of our students.”

Skeens is an experienced school counselor who has and continues to make positive impacts to students, families and her school community all while sounding a strong voice of support for the profession says Mr. Timothy Garland, colleague and school counselor at Doherty High School.

“Carrie was the first, or one of the first school counselors to be hired at an elementary building in Colorado Springs School District 11 and the first to participate in the Comprehensive Student Support Model. While this may be risky for some, Carrie embraced this opportunity and created a foundational and strong relationship with her principal and delivered exceptional school counseling services.”

Skeens was honored as the 2021 Colorado Counselor of the Year at the Colorado School Counselor Association Annual Conference in October.

Skeens will represent Colorado as the School Counselor of the Year in the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) annual national School Counselor of the Year award ceremony.

About the Colorado School Counselor Association

The Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) is a nonprofit, professional organization representing Professional School Counselors in the state of Colorado. As a state level organization of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), CSCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of professional school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. CSCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic achievement, social and emotional development, and career planning to help today’s students become tomorrow’s productive, contributing members of society. For additional information on the Colorado School Counselor Association, visit www.coloradoschoolcounselor.org. ###