



# NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and Community Outreach  
6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204  
443.809.5908 [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org)

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**CONTACT:** Dept. of Communications/Community Outreach, 443.809.5908  
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## **Catonsville High department chair named Maryland School Counselor of the Year**

*BCPS staff also honored for Maryland Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Advocate of the Year, and having a Recognized ASCA Model Program*

TOWSON, MD – Baltimore County Public Schools staff have earned several honors from the Maryland School Counselor Association this year, including Maryland School Counselor of the Year, High School Counselor of the Year, Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Advocate of the Year, and recognition to one high school for implementation of a model program.

“This is a fantastic way for BCPS to begin its celebration of National School Counselor Week, Feb. 7 – 11,” said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. “We are so proud of our team members who have been honored by the Maryland School Counselor Association, and so thankful for all of our school counselors across the county. These highly skilled, compassionate, and creative professionals make invaluable contributions every day to the academic progress and social emotional wellbeing of our students.”

Brian Stewart, school counseling chair at Catonsville High School, has been named Maryland School Counselor of the Year. As Maryland High School Counselor of the Year, Stewart was one of three finalists for the MSCA’s highest school counseling honor.

In a letter of nomination, Catonsville High Principal Matthew Ames wrote, “Simply put, [Mr. Stewart] is the CHS team member that faculty, staff, department heads, and even administrators go to for solutions, ideas, and insights. His vision for what a school counseling department should mean to a school has completely changed how we operate at CHS. During his time at CHS, he has instituted many invaluable programs and initiatives and has changed processes and services all for the better.”

One of the other finalists was Lori Counsell of Mays Chapel Elementary School, Maryland Elementary School Counselor of the Year. In nominating her, Stephen Coco, Mays Chapel Elementary principal, wrote, “[Mrs. Counsell] was instrumental in working collaboratively with all school stakeholders to develop our shared mission and the social emotional learning structures within our school. With high expectations, she continues to demonstrate responsiveness and flexibility in her approach to her work. She is child-centered, reliable, and a school and districtwide leader in the field of school counseling.”

In addition, this year, the Maryland School Counseling Association is honoring Kimberly Ferguson, BCPS director of Student Support Services, as Advocate of the Year, as well as the school counseling team of Towson High School (Simon Briggs, Lauren Hanley, Courtiney Jacobs, Michele Petras, Carly Raley, and Svetlana Wright) for its development and implementation of a Recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program.

These individuals will be formally honored at the MSCA’s Annual Recognition Gala, to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Annapolis Hotel on Friday, April 8.

*(Editor’s note: Photos of Counsell, Ferguson, Stewart, and the Towson High school counseling team accompany this release.)*

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).