



NEWS RELEASE

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Towson High honored as one of nation's best for school counseling by American School Counselor Association

Towson High named as one of 139 national RAMP Schools for 2021

Towson, MD – Towson High School is among 139 schools in 27 states to receive the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association. Towson High is the first Baltimore County Public Schools high school and the first Maryland high school to receive this recognition since it was launched in 2004.

The RAMP designation, awarded for aligning with the criteria in the ASCA National Model, recognizes schools committed to delivering a data-informed school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment. Since the program's inception, more than 1,100 schools have been designated as RAMP recipients. Carroll Manor Elementary School received RAMP designation in 2013.

The Towson High school counseling department is comprised of department chair Simon Briggs; school counselors Lauren Hanley, Courtney Jacobs, Michele Petras, Carly Raley, and Svetlana Wright; and administrative assistants Joanne Pachilis and Mary Williams

"The ASCA RAMP designation is the blue ribbon of counseling programs," said MaatenRe Ramin, acting coordinator of the BCPS Office of School Counseling. "This is a huge honor for Simon Briggs and his counseling department, being the only high school in the state to achieve RAMP. It's a great honor for the department and is a culmination of three years of data analysis and targeted counseling interventions."

“Our focus as a department has been on the academic, social and emotional, and college and career growth of each student through the use of classrooms lessons, small group instruction, and individual school counseling,” said Briggs. “Our philosophy is that each student is an individual who comes to school with their own strengths, and we encourage and support each student to be successful.”

RAMP-designated schools are now in 47 states across the country. The RAMP designation is good for five years, after which time schools must reapply to maintain their RAMP status. This year, 26 schools earned Re-RAMP status, three of them for a fourth time.

“This year’s RAMP honorees have shown their commitment to students and the school counseling profession,” said Jill Cook, ASCA executive director. “These schools used data to drive their program development and implementation so all students can achieve success. RAMP designation distinguishes these schools and encourages school counselors nationwide to strive for excellence.”

The counseling team of Towson High will be honored at a recognition ceremony at ASCA’s annual conference in Las Vegas, Nev., on Tuesday, July 13.

(Editor’s note: A photo of Towson High’s school counseling team accompanies this release. In the photo, from left to right are: Svetlana Wright, Michele Petras, Lauren Hanley, Simon Briggs, Mary Williams, Joanne Pachilis, Carly Raley, and Courtney Jacobs.)

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