



# Northwest Missouri School Counselors Association

*Counselors Helping Counselors*

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December 2020



### *Presidential Perspective*

**Rebecca Arway**  
NWMSCA President

Can you believe we are closing in on the end of the 1st semester?!?!?! Some days it seems surreal, other days I still find myself thinking about the things I should be doing, but am not able to at the moment. Cancelled activities. No spectators at sporting events. No winter music concert. One set of rules and procedures and then the next day the CDC comes out with new guidelines leading to another set of new rules and procedures. The list seems like it goes on and on and I find myself getting lost in all of the coulda, woulda, shoulda and forget to reflect on the positives this semester and school year has brought. New learning opportunities. New connections. New opportunities for personal and professional growth. Embracing change can be hard. It can be challenging and overwhelming, but it can also be enlightening, motivating, and in the end amazing.

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## Proposed Bylaw Changes Approved

By Becky Houtchens

At the NWMSCA Fall Business meeting on October 9, there was a presentation and discussion of proposed changes to the NWMSCA Bylaws. These changes were approved through majority vote via an electronic ballot, and officially adopted on October 19, 2020. The approved changes reorganize the NWMSCA Governing Board from a 27-member Governing Board, to a 9-member board with several committees. The full revised bylaws are available on the NWMSCA website – [www.nwmsca.org](http://www.nwmsca.org). Please watch for information this spring about many opportunities to become involved in NWMSCA leadership next year!

## Nominate the next Counselor and Advocate of the Year!

by Melissa Adcock,  
Professional Recognition Co-Chair

There are many amazing staff members who are going way out of their way, especially this year, to best serve students and families. Please take time to recognize their incredible efforts and consistent dedication by nominating them for the Counselor or Counselor Advocate of the Year awards!

The **Advocate of the Year** award recognizes an individual or organization whose advocacy of counseling services in a school setting has a positive impact for counselors on a local, state and/or national level. Nominees may be a principal, superintendent, school board member, parent, teacher, community leader, or other organization. The nominations are due **January 22, 2021**, and the award will be presented at the Administrator's Breakfast.

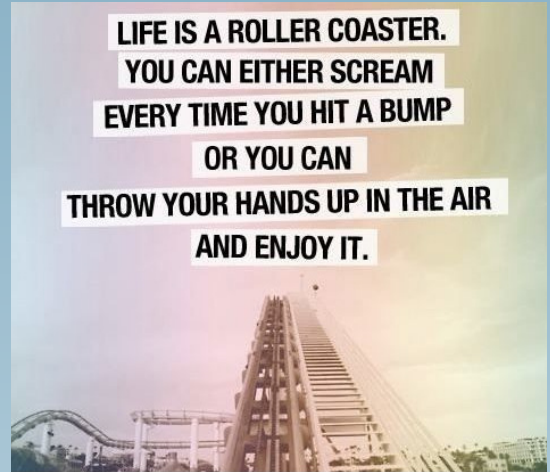
The **Counselor of the Year** award recognizes counselors for their outstanding service and achievements. There are 4 different categories for this award including Elementary, Middle School, High School and Multi-Level. Those nominations are due **March 12, 2021**, and the recipient will be recognized at the NWMSCA Spring Meeting. Applications are available on the NWMSCA website at [www.nwmsca.org](http://www.nwmsca.org). Click on "Applications/Forms" then select the application form. The forms can also be found at the end of this newsletter.

# Perspective . . .

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(Sidenote: I HATE change, but have had to find a way to embrace it during these ever-changing times.)

Early in the school year I remember reading an article about replacing the “can’t’s” with “ yet.” We can’t go to basketball games... yet . We can’t go here or there or wherever... yet. Sometimes just a small mindset shift allows us to look at the possibility versus dwelling on what we are missing. So, as we head into the holiday season with new adventures and possibilities, I encourage each of you to look at the positives that await knowing that maybe the best is “yet” to be!



## “The joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.”

– John Greenleaf Whittier

### Send newsletter submissions to:



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 Jefferson C-123  
 37614 US Highway 136  
 Conception Junction, MO 64434  
 aholtman@jc123.k12.mo.us

or

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 126 S High School Ave  
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## Words to describe the school year:



## Fall Conference Q&A

*Editor's Note: We wondered what people thought about the virtual Fall MSCA Conference. Below are some of the responses of those who attended.*

### **Q. What did you like most about MSCA Fall Conference in virtual format?**

I liked having the freedom to watch the sessions at a time that was convenient for me and knowing that I will have an opportunity to go back and watch any sessions of any interest to me.

I really liked that I could see multiple sessions that I would have normally had to choose between. I also liked having the ability to pause the recorded presentations for note taking or if I was interrupted.

Being able to attend every session if I want to, and having access to them for 90 days. The opportunity to still have the conference, instead of cancelling since we couldn't be in person.

I liked the ability to review at my pace and as time allowed. It was neat to have resources shared immediately electronically so that I can add new ideas to my program.

### **Q. What did you miss most about the traditional MSCA Fall Conference?**

I definitely missed getting to see everyone and really getting the opportunity to get away and

## Outstanding Counselor Awards

by **Melissa Adcock**

This year has been full of surprises and adaptations to most aspects of our lives. We had every intention of presenting our Counselor of the Year Awards at our Fall Meeting in October. However, that event was virtual, as much of life has become. Although this allowed for the awards to be presented in the winners' home districts, I am sad that we couldn't witness the presentation of these awards. I do think it is so neat that the staff and students of each respective winner's district were able to see and celebrate the incredible efforts and character of their counselors. ***Congratulations Ladies!***



**Elementary**  
Lori Cole  
Lindbergh Elementary  
St. Joseph



**Middle School**  
Susan Edwards  
Lawson Middle  
School



**High School**  
Sam Davis  
Lafayette High School  
St. Joseph

## Q&amp;A...

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have a true opportunity for self care.

Conference always gives us a break from our everyday distractions and let us focus on our professional development. We also have a chance to focus on our peer relationships and some self care. Fall conference is so much more than a PD event; it's a chance to recharge, get inspired and remind us all why we are school counselors.

All of the fun evening events – hospitality rooms, service project, trivia, bingo, dances.

As a counselor, I will always prefer person-to-person interaction! I missed that so much! I missed catching up with friends around the state and just disconnecting and absorbing new information from the seminars and breakout sessions. It was good, but I sincerely missed the in-person conference!

## NWMSCA Annual Administrator's Appreciation Virtual Event

Even though this year has brought about unprecedented times, NWMSCA still would like to take the opportunity to not only celebrate our administrators, but more importantly celebrate the partnership between school counselors and their administrators. Please join us, virtually, for our annual **Administrators Appreciation event on Friday, February 5, 2021 at 9:30 am.**

A Zoom link will be sent to all current members of NWMSCA to share with their administrators. Sean Buchanan, a life-long educator and current principal in Geary, Oklahoma, will be presenting on Student Success: It's as Easy as T.L.C. Through his presentation, he will give some solutions to counselors and administrators as they try to reach students (and their families) who may be apathetic in their outlook toward education or struggle with discipline issues. Featuring research based strategies as well as looking at the role both the administrators and counselors play in implementing these practices will help to improve student behavior and make clear the role motivation plays in education is the main focus of his presentation.

Mark your calendars to save the date for this opportunity to celebrate, learn, and collaborate with counselors and administrators throughout Northwest Missouri!



*The Northwest Missouri  
School Counselor's Association  
hopes you will take time to  
relax, recharge, spend time  
with friends and family  
and prepare for a  
successful New Year!*

## Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association Professional Recognition

In an effort to encourage more nominations for Outstanding Counselor of the year, the Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association is offering an abbreviated nomination form.

This will include the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Nomination page

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 Letters of support

**\*\*In the event that the application is accepted as Northwest's nominee for state recognition, additional information will need to be completed in a timely manner.\*\***

Nominations must be postmarked by **March 12, 2021**.

Please send the completed packet to **either** of the following:

Melissa Adcock  
King City Elementary School  
300 Grand Street (PO Box 189)  
King City, MO 64463  
660-535-4712  
**660-535-4356 (fax)**  
[melissaadcock@kingcityschools.org](mailto:melissaadcock@kingcityschools.org)

Angela McDaniel  
Cameron Veterans Middle School  
1015 South Park  
Cameron, MO 64429  
816-882-1041  
**816-882-1042 (fax)**  
[amcdaniel@cameronschools.org](mailto:amcdaniel@cameronschools.org)

## **NWMSCA Outstanding Counselor of the Year Award**

The purpose of the award is to recognize a counselor in the Northwest Missouri District for outstanding service achievement.

### **1. Eligibility for consideration:**

- The nominee must be currently employed as a full-time counselor and have completed three consecutive years of counseling service at the level of nomination.
- The nominee must be a NWMSCA and MSCA member.
- The nominee must hold a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling and be certified by the State of Missouri.

### **2. Criteria for recognition:**

- The nominee should possess the personal qualities thought to be desirable in a counselor.
- The nominee must have been responsible for innovations in guidance and counseling programs, for providing leadership in the further development of existing guidance and counseling programs, or for performing an outstanding service to the school or community.
- The activities or accomplishments recognized must have taken place within five years prior to the date of presentation.

### **3. Procedures for nominations:**

- Nominations may be submitted by administrators, counselors, parents, teachers, or community leaders.
- The nominator must submit a nomination packet including:
  - Nomination page
  - Two letters of support

**Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association  
Outstanding Counselor of the Year Nomination Form**

NORTHWEST MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

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NOMINATION CATEGORY:

School Counselor (circle one):

Elementary      Middle/Junior High      Secondary      K-12      Post-Secondary

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NOMINATOR:

Name:  
Home Address:  
Home Phone:  
Business Address:  
Business Phone:

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NOMINEE:

Name:  
Home Address:  
Home Phone:  
Business Address:  
Business Phone:

Briefly describe the job setting including demographic information, nominee's program, activity, and/or contributions occurring within the last five years.

## Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association Professional Recognition

In an effort to encourage more nominations for Outstanding Counselor Advocate of the year, the Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association is offering an abbreviated nomination form.

This will include the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Nomination page

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 Letters of support

**\*\*In the event that the application is accepted as Northwest's nominee for state recognition, additional information will need to be completed in a timely manner.\*\***

Nominations must be postmarked or emailed by **January 22, 2021**.

Please send the completed packet to ***either*** of the following:

Melissa Adcock  
King City Elementary School  
300 Grand Street (PO Box 189)  
King City, MO 64463  
660-535-4712  
660-535-4356 (fax)  
[melissaadcock@kingcityschools.org](mailto:melissaadcock@kingcityschools.org)

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816-882-1042 (fax)  
[amcdaniel@cameronschools.org](mailto:amcdaniel@cameronschools.org)



## NWMSCA Outstanding Advocate of the Year Award

The purpose of the advocate award is to recognize a person or organization whose advocacy of counseling services in a school setting has an impact for counselors on a local, state or national level.

**1. Eligibility for consideration:**

- Nominee may be a principal, superintendent, school board member, parent, teacher, community leader, or organization who has consistently made a significant contribution to the improvement of guidance and counseling services in the school setting.
- The nominee should not be actively employed as a school counselor.

**2. Criteria for recognition:**

- Exemplary support of counseling and guidance services.
- Outstanding promotion of counseling and guidance services.
- Implementation of new/additional counseling and guidance services.
- Improvement of existing counseling and guidance services.

**3. Procedures for nomination:**

- Nominations may be submitted by administrators, counselors, parents, teachers, or community leaders.
- The nominator must submit a nomination packet including:
  - Nomination page
  - Two letters of support: Letters of Support should be concise, but specific, in discussing the nominee’s support, promotion, implementation and improvement of counseling services. **Please follow the rubric for evaluation criteria.**

**Letters of Recommendation: Each letter will be scored separately with total points for each letter as follows.**

Point Value	1	2	3	4
<b>Exemplary Support of School Counseling Services</b>	Cites 1 example of nominee's exemplary support of school counseling services	Cites 2 examples of nominee's exemplary support of school counseling services	Cites 3 examples of nominee's exemplary support of school counseling services	Cites 4 examples of nominee's exemplary support of school counseling services

<b>Outstanding Advocacy for School Counseling Services</b>	Provides 1 example of nominee's advocacy for school counseling services	Provides 2 examples of nominee's advocacy for school counseling services	Provides 3 examples of nominee's advocacy for school counseling services	Provides 4 examples of nominee's advocacy for school counseling services
<b>Implementation of new/additional School Counseling Services</b>	Provides 1 example of nominee's implementation of new/additional school counseling services	Provides 2 examples of nominee's implementation of new/additional school counseling services	Provides 3 examples of nominee's implementation of new/additional school counseling services	Provides 4 examples of nominee's implementation of new/additional school counseling services
<b>Improvement of Existing School Counseling Services</b>	Provides 1 example of how nominee has improved existing school counseling services	Provides 2 examples of how nominee has improved existing school counseling services	Provides 3 examples of how nominee has improved existing school counseling services	Provides 4 examples of how nominee has improved existing school counseling services

**Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association  
Outstanding Counselor Advocate Nomination Form**

NORTHWEST MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

\*\*\*\*\*

NOMINATOR:

Name:  
Home Address:  
Home Phone:  
Business Address:  
Business Phone:

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NOMINEE:

Name:  
Home Address:  
Home Phone:  
Business Address:  
Business Phone:

Briefly describe the job setting including demographic information, nominee's program, activity, or contributions occurring within the last five years.

## Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association Professional Recognition

In an effort to encourage more nominations for Outstanding School Counselor Director of the year, the Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association is offering an abbreviated nomination form.

This will include the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Nomination page

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 Letters of support

**\*\*In the event that the application is accepted as Northwest's nominee for state recognition, additional information will need to be completed in a timely manner.\*\***

Nominations must be postmarked or emailed by **January 22, 2021**.  
Please send the completed packet to either of the following:

**Melissa Adcock**

King City Elementary School 300 Grand  
Street (PO Box 189)

King City, MO 64463

660-535-4712

**660-535-4356 (fax)**

[melissaadcock@kingcityschools.org](mailto:melissaadcock@kingcityschools.org)

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816-882-1041

**816-882-1042 (fax)**

[amcdaniel@cameronschools.org](mailto:amcdaniel@cameronschools.org)

## **NWMSCA Outstanding School Counseling Director**

The purpose of the School Counseling Director award is to recognize a person whose in the Northwest Missouri District for outstanding leadership in a school setting has impacted their counseling department on a local, state, or national level.

### **1. Eligibility for consideration:**

- This nominee should be a director or coordinator of school counseling in a district within the Northwest Region.

### **2. Criteria for recognition:**

- Exemplary support of counseling and guidance services.
- Outstanding promotion of counseling and guidance services.
- Implementation of new/additional counseling and guidance services.
- Improvement of existing counseling and guidance services.

### **3. Procedures for nomination:**

- Nominations may be submitted by administrators, counselors, parents, teachers, or community leaders.
- The nominator must submit a nomination packet including:
  - Nomination page
  - Four letters of support
    - Specifically address what the nominee has done during the past five years to support, promote, implement, and improve guidance and counseling services.

**Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association Outstanding  
Director of School Counseling Nomination Form**

NORTHWEST MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOMINATOR:**

Name:

Home Address:

Home Phone:

Business Phone:

**NOMINEE:**

Name:

Home Address:

Home Phone:

Business Address:

Business Phone:

Briefly describe the job setting including demographic information, nominee's program, activity, or contributions occurring within the last five years.