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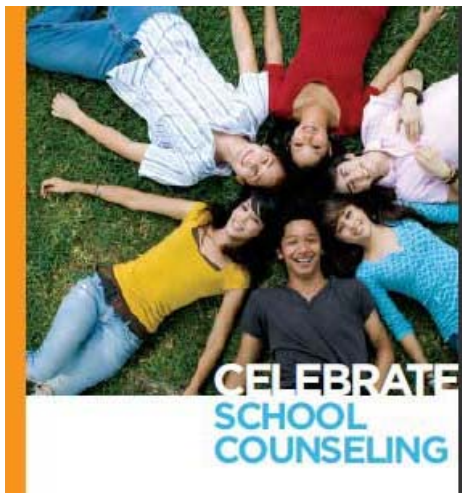
NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrating School Counseling Week Feb. 6 - 10



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **National School Counseling Week is Feb. 6–10, 2012**, to focus attention on the contributions of professional school counselors and how students benefit from their efforts. Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), National School Counseling Week highlights the impact school counselors have on student achievement and school success. This year’s theme is "School Counselors: Helping Students Be Brilliant."

"School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing students’ academic concerns, personal/social skills and career awareness in post-secondary options," said Kwok-Sze Wong, Ed.D., ASCA executive director. "Comprehensive school counseling programs help to increase

student achievement and provide a much-needed resource for students, parents, teachers and administrators. School counselors are integral to student success."

All 65 school counselors and achievement specialists in the Houston County School System are certified, experienced educators. Counselors have a master’s degree or higher in guidance and counseling. These professionals deliver a comprehensive school counseling program. They help students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents, focusing on positive ways to enhance students’ personal, educational and career development. They also form partnerships with parents to help them overcome challenges as they raise their children.

Superintendent Dr. Robin Hines commented, "Our counselors and achievement specialists are integral to helping students reach their fullest academic and personal heights. These dedicated professionals work hard to help ensure student success. Please join me in celebrating their contributions to our mission to produce high-achieving students."

MORE

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More than 29,000 school counselors nationwide will be participating in the week's festivities. Many school counselors will be hosting special events and activities to call attention to the myriad benefits of a comprehensive school counseling program.

For more information, visit the ASCA Web site, <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/index.asp> or contact your school counselor.

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