

“...WITH EVERY LIFE YOU TRANSFORM, WITH EVERY LIFE YOU SAVE, YOU HAVE AN
IMPACT THAT IS TRULY BEYOND MEASURE”

--Michelle Obama, July 1, 2014 to Professional School Counselors at the ASCA National Conference

What's in a name?

Why “School Counselor” and not “Guidance Counselor”?

“Guidance Counselor”

- Fearing that the U.S was losing the space race and in response to Russians launching Sputnik into space in 1957 and the creation of the National Defense Education Act in 1958, schools were called upon to encourage students to pursue fields in math and science.
- The “Guidance Counselor” concept was initially developed for teachers to provide vocational assistance with no specialized training.
- The term “guidance counselor” refers to an individual without the same level of training as Professional School Counselors
- “Guidance Counselors” do not provide standards-based instruction
- Narrow focus on science and math
- **Serves some students**, not *all* students
- Answered the question: **“What do school counselors do?”**

“School Counselor”

- In the 1960s/1970s, began a shift from a focus exclusively on career development to a focus on student personal and social issues.
- A shift to strategic and systemic goal of providing a comprehensive developmental school counseling program for all students.
- “School Counselors” provide:
 - Comprehensive
 - Data-driven
 - Developmental guidance programs
- Focus on:
 - Academic achievement
 - Social/emotional development
 - Career readiness
- Based on national models and national & state standards
- School counselors, as primary advocates for students, collaborate, consult, coordinate, counsel, guide, refer, support, teach, provide in-services, connect with parents, network, seek educational equity for all while recognizing the need for systemic changes necessary to allow that to occur
- **Serves all students**, not *some* students
- Answers the question: **“How are students different as a result of what school counselors do?”**

Celebrating National School Counselor Week

Focusing on the *profession*, not the *individual*

NSCW15.jandm