Professional School Counselor Vision Statement

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August 12, 2014

**Being a Professional School Counselor: My Vision**

I am a school counselor who changes the world, by creating an ever-expanding ripple effect. I will take care of myself. My personal choices are conductive to my health and happiness. I work to create a balance between safety and adventure, work and fun, and abundance and necessity. I am a supportive family member, friend, and member of my bamboo circle. Because I take care of myself, I am able to be fully present to take care of my school. As a school counselor, it is my job to foster a supportive, accepting, and progressive school community. I identify and meet student needs and advocate for students in need of extra support. I also am a supportive team member among school staff. I build connections with and value all staff members, from the principal to the custodian. I also build connections within my community. When I do this, I learn about the cultural make up of my community. In fostering community connections, I elicit support for my school and school district. I also initiate connections between students and helpful community members. I work to help my community by identifying needs and advocating for social change. My community includes my school district, the city I live in, the state I live in, and my nation. As a school counselor, I have an essential role in helping America achieve goals and remain competitive with other nations. With positivity, I create a ripple effect, which changes the world.

**Being a Transformed School Counselor and Abiding by Ethical Standards**

Above was an outline of my professional vision. Now I will go into more detail about how I will achieve this vision. As a professional school counselor, I am a leader, an advocate, a collaborative team member, a coordinator and counselor, and utilize data and assessment methods (ERFORD). Implementing all of these roles into my comprehensive school counseling program is essential in achieving my vision statement. While filling these roles, it is important to be mindful of the American School Counselor Association’s (ASCA) ethical standards and the ethical standards in my school and community. Below is a discussion of each role and the ASCA ethical issues that apply to them.

**Counseling and Coordination**

According to the ASCA code of ethics, I will provide direct services to my students, to ensure that their academic, personal/social, and career development needs are being met. It is important to inform students about career and post-secondary options, even at an elementary level. As a professional school counselor, I will “plant the seed” for success in elementary students by teaching them about various careers and getting them excited about college. I will also provide individual and group counseling, and create curriculums designed to address student needs. My curriculums will be tailored to the student’s needs, language, and developmental levels. They will also be hierarchal; so that in each grade, students will build on the skills they learned previously. One curricular focus of mine will be on mindfulness and emotional regulation. When working with students, I will balance the student’s right to privacy, while honoring parental wishes to be informed on their child (ASCA ETHICS). When student needs are beyond my professional scope, I will refer students appropriately (ASCA CODE).

**Collaborator and Team member**

As a professional school counselor I am a member of a large and important team. Students, parents, school staff, and community members should all be working together to ensure the success of future generations. I value the perspective of each member of my team. I am important in achieving school, community, state, and national goals. For example, how will Oregon achieve 40-40-20 by 2025 without the career and academic planning done by school counselors? I stay informed on new goals and practices within my school and community and keep all stakeholders informed on my practices and my essential role as a team member.

**Leader**

Transformed school counselors are leaders working to help students, schools, communities, schools, and nations achieve goals. A great example of this is in the school counselor’s essential role in helping Oregon achieve 40-40-20, in which eighty percent of students acquire a post-secondary degree, by 2025. Transformed professional school counselors are attempting to lead the effort in accomplishing this feat, by implementing evidence-based curriculums, providing educational planning, and working to close achievement gaps within the student body. Additionally, school counselors organize community activities, staff development training, and cultural competence workshops, which are conductive to goals. School counselors work with students and parents to ensure they are able to successfully navigate the educational system and understand the implications of educational decisions and options. School counselors are leaders in the school and surrounding community, working to cultivate a supportive environment in which all students can succeed.

**Advocate and Systemic Change Agent**

The transformed professional school counselor understands the importance of promoting equity within the school system. School counselors must first work to ensure their own cultural competence. This involves acceptance of all perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures. As a school counselor, I will educate myself on the cultural make-up of my school and reach out to community organizations (for example, places of worship) to learn about student and family backgrounds. I will also conduct cultural competence workshops for school staff.

To promote equity, I will identify student groups that are underserved and low achieving and work to close gaps. The educational system has a history of providing less to the students who need it the most. I will work to identify systemic barriers and work to eliminate them, to pave the way for all students to reach their full potential. In order to ensure future success, I will teach students (particularly those in underserved groups) self-advocacy skills and train students and their families on how to navigate the educational system and access resources. As a school counselor, I will work hard to ensure that every student has the inherit right to pursue the lifestyle and career of his or her choice, by advocating on behalf of the students, and working to change the education system.

**Assessment and Use of Data**

According to the ASCA code of ethics, school counselors must have a systemic evaluation process for their school-counseling program. This is important to ensure that the methods I am using are effective. It is also important in advocating for the importance of school counselors. As a professional school counselor, it is my job to advocate for the profession by collecting data on achievement, attainment, school culture, and my own competency. In showing the effectiveness of specific methods, and publishing the data for the public to see, school counselors prove their necessity and provide information on effective interventions. In addition to collecting data, I will stay up to date on the most effective, evidence based methods and research. I will also review the data on my school and surrounding community, to identify and work to close gaps in the population. Utilizing data and assessment methods is powerful in ensuring that I am meeting students’ needs; so that they can go on to pursue the life of their choice.