

**November 2, 2010**

## **NCSS Announces 2010 Counselor and Advocate Award Winners**

The Newton County School System (NCSS) is pleased to announce that Dr. Tina Daniel-Reasey and Mr. Jeff Meadors have been named the district's 2010 School Counselor and 2010 Advocate of the Year respectively. The awards are a first for Newton County Schools and were presented on Wednesday, October 27, during a school counselor meeting at Georgia Perimeter College's Newton Campus.

"Our counseling staff is an integral part of preparing our students to be successful during their academic careers as well as assist with life behind high school," said Ms. Samantha Fuhrey, NCSS Director of Secondary Curriculum, prior to announcing the awards.

According to Fuhrey, in order to be the NCSS Counselor of the Year, a candidate must support the career, personal, social, and academic development of students. The counselor must also demonstrate leadership, advocacy, and collaboration in his or her work while promoting equity and access to opportunities for rigorous educational experiences for all students. She added that the candidate must demonstrate professionalism and seek to support the profession through alignment with the ASCA National model as well as participate in professional counseling organizations.



**Dr. Gary Mathews, NCSS Superintendent congratulates Dr. Tina Daniel-Reasey, NCSS Counselor of the Year, and Mr. Jeff Meadors, NCSS Advocate of the Year.**

"The NCSS Counselor of the Year is an innovator and a collaborator in their efforts to provide outstanding service to the students and the community and an advocate for students, counselors, and the school system," said Fuhrey, who then introduced Dr. Tina Daniel-Reasey as the first-ever recipient of the NCSS Counselor of the Year Award.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized as Newton County's first Counselor of the Year," said Dr. Daniel-Reasey. "I have a sincere and deep passion for working with students to help them fulfill their potential and be successful in life. Whether it is the note I received from a student who said, 'Thanks for not giving up on me,' or being chosen by a student as their Rotary Top Ten teacher, it is about making a difference and this is why I attempt to do the best I can for all students."

She added, "Fortunately, I have worked for very supportive administrations who have allowed me to be the best counselor I could be. It is always my goal to develop a comprehensive, data driven school counseling program that is accessible for all students. Eastside High School staff, students, parents, and

the counseling department are supportive of what I do as a counselor and it is my privilege to represent our county in this position.”

“We are certainly proud to have such an outstanding head counselor as Dr. Tina Daniel here at Eastside High School,” said Principal Dennis Roddenberry. “I am thankful to the counselors of the NCSS for selecting her as their first Counselor of the Year. Tina embodies the qualities needed to be outstanding in her field. She cares deeply for all the students, the community, and is driven to provide all of our students with the tools needed to reach and surpass their goals. She works tirelessly to lead the Eastside Counseling Department to be the best it can!”

“Tina Daniel represents the best of the best,” said Gary Mathews, Superintendent of Newton County Schools. “She is the consummate professional and is truly dedicated to enhancing the academic and life prospects of her students.”

Dr. Daniel-Reasey will now represent Newton County School System in the Georgia School Counselors Association’s regional Counselor of the Year program.

In addition to the Counselor of the Year Award, NCSS also awarded the first-ever Advocate Award to Mr. Jeff Meadors, Coordinator for Dual Enrollment at Georgia Perimeter Newton Campus. Fuhrey noted that nominees for the Advocate Award must provide, “exemplary support of counseling services, outstanding promotion of counseling and guidance services, implementation of new or additional guidance and counseling services, and improvement of existing guidance and counseling services.” She added that nominees for this award cannot be employed as a school counselor or supervisor of school counselors or counseling services at the school, district, or state levels.

“I am very honored to receive the first ever 2010-2011 Newton County School System Counselor Advocate Award,” said Meadors. “It is a very humbling experience because this award is local. It comes from my local school system and community from people who know how much I care about our students and our schools.”

“Counselors are critical to the success of our students, K - 12, academically, socially, and with respect to college and career goals and pathways, he added. “Our school counselors continue to do more with less. It is a genuine honor to work with them. I work with school counselors in 8 counties and 1 city school system and am always amazed at their work load. Yet, they are passionate, tenacious, caring, articulate, educated individuals who work diligently to help students to earn and to achieve success. They work far beyond the 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. work day. They involve themselves in night and weekend events on a routine basis. Their dedication translates into strong schools, higher graduation rates, and the overall success and well-being of students. Again and again, when students meet success, there is a school counselor somewhere in the formula.”

According to Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli, president of Georgia Perimeter College (GPC), Meadors exemplifies the very same work ethic and commitment and dedication to students.

“Being selected as Outstanding Advocate validates the valuable work that Jeff Meadors does on behalf of the students of Newton County and beyond. GPC is very proud of the great difference that Jeff is making in the lives of hundreds of high school and college students each and every year; he is a valuable asset to both our community and our college, and he is a valuable contributor to strengthening our collective futures through his dedication to young people. When it comes to employees getting the job

done, Jeff Meadors is a rare gem. He understands the big picture, yet always takes care of the fine details - thereby assuring student success with each young life in which he comes into contact.”

Dr. Tricoli added, “We are proud to have Jeff as a member of the Georgia Perimeter College team, and we are pleased that he has been recognized by the Newton County School System as 2010-2011 Advocate of the Year.”

“Jeff Meadors is indeed an advocate for the professional guidance of young people,” said Mathews. He has worked tirelessly in our schools to make sure that avenues are open for student success.”

“We offer our best wishes to Dr. Daniel and Mr. Meadors as they advance to the regional competition,” said Fuhrey. “Our system will be well represented as each of them exemplifies dedication, compassion, knowledge and skill while advocating for students’ achievement and well-being.”

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