



Virginia School Counselor Association

## **2010 VSCA Elections Officer Candidate Biographical and Goal Statements**

*Note: Candidates are listed in alphabetical order according to their last name under each office.*

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT** (1 candidate)

#### **Bea McLeod**

I am running for President-Elect of the Virginia School Counselor Association. After attending many VSCA conferences a friend said to me, "since you're here and working anyway, you might as well be on the Board". The rest is history. I get energy, support and new ideas by attending the many conferences and workshops that we have offered. My goal as President-Elect is to recruit and train school counselors across the state to become involved in this great organization. We cannot do this job alone. We must support, encourage and educate each other. We must learn to work "Smarter". I plan to develop a Leadership Academy to support the counselors who want to become involved. I want the School Counselors in Virginia to have the confidence to take on these leadership positions so they can carry on this great Association for years and years to come.

B.S., Health & Physical Education, M.A. Guidance and School Counseling

2002-present-HCPS- School Counseling Director Deep Run H.S.-2002- present

1996-2002- Henrico High School- School Counseling Director

Executive Assistant VSCA 2009-10

Professional Recognition Chair VSCA 2008-09

Secondary Vice-President VSCA 2007-08

Reviewer for 2010 ASCA Foundation Scholarship Applications

Summer 2008 & 2009- attended the ASCA Leadership trainings

VSCA- 2005 "Secondary School Counselor of the Year"

ASCA member

Presented 2005 VCA- "Your Team's Golden Rule: Treat Yourself as Good as You Treat Others"

Publicity Chair Person VCA Convention 2003

Co-Chair-Person of VCA Convention 2001

Richmond Area Counselor Association member (Past President)

Attended many VCA, VSCA and ASCA conferences

Wrote articles for the VOICE- VSCA's magazine

### **SECRETARY-ELECT** (1 candidate)

#### **Sherita Dance**

From Longwood University to a small rural county; I was extremely excited to begin my career as a School Counselor. I was educated and well trained in the profession; and I thought that most people were. I was in a county that did not recognize or appreciate the importance of what they called "those guidance people". For six years, I advocated; educated; and celebrated this wonderful profession. By the time I left, I had convinced the board to increase the number of counselors at the high school and educated the community enough that at least we were being called "counselors"; which was an improvement.

I now serve as a School Counseling Director in Henrico County and still I find myself advocating; educating; and celebrating our profession. Finally, we have a title that reflects and defines who we are and what we do as professionals. I'm committed to make a difference as counselor. For the past ten years, I proudly hold the title of School Counselor.

Advocating and educating for your profession; what could be more rewarding. If given the opportunity to serve on the VSCA Board, I will continue to do just that. As a member, I will continue to bring awareness to our profession and ensure that counselors are ready for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The board will be a wonderful opportunity to help hundreds of school counselors with networking; resources; strategies; and support. I would be honored to serve as Secretary- Elect for VSCA. Please consider me for this opportunity.

### **ELEMENTARY VICE PRESIDENT ELECT** (1 candidate)

#### **Emily Scott**

I am a second-year elementary school counselor, a Nationally Certified Counselor and a doctoral student in Virginia Tech's Counselor Education program. I had the privilege of opening a new school during the 2008-2009 school year in Loudoun County, Northern Virginia. As the first full-time counselor at a new school, I took great pleasure in designing a school counseling program from infancy.

Prior to my role as a school counselor, I held several positions in the education and counseling fields. For example, for several years I worked as a special education teacher and private therapist serving children with autism. I have also worked as a relief counselor in a substance abuse rehabilitation center for adolescents and counseled all ages at a local non-profit organization.

Over the past several years I have served as a leader and presenter in several capacities. While in graduate school I was President of my graduate school's chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), the Counseling Honor and Professional Society, as well as one of ten students nationally chosen as a Sigma Iota Fellow. I have also presented at 4 statewide conferences and 1 local conference, as well as several presentations for my school.

In 2005, I was awarded a VSCA graduate scholarship; when I applied for this opportunity within my graduate program I described myself as potential energy: that I was building momentum to serve not only students and clients, but to also contribute to the counseling profession systemically. I again thank VSCA for that scholarship I am ready to make that contribution I previously mentioned!

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The current climate in the Virginia school systems is one of uncertainty as we face potential budget cuts, the elimination of valuable positions, and a heftier school counselor case-load. 2010 is a crucial time to not only support school counselors and the VSCA, but to also inspire hope and advocate for our profession.

As a potential member of the VSCA Board I am committed and excited to serve individual counselors, the VSCA, and the counseling profession. I look forward to collaborating with the board to advocate for our profession and provide high-quality educational and networking opportunities for members to stay connected and refreshed; one such idea is to create a mentoring program for professionals across the state. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you and thank you for your consideration.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL VICE PRESIDENT ELECT** (2 candidates)

**Valerie Hardy**

I have been at the middle school level for the past ten years, first as a special education teacher and then as school counselor in North Carolina and now in Virginia. Presently, I am the lead counselor at Kilmer Middle School in Fairfax County Public School District. I am seeking the position of Middle School Vice President Elect for the Virginia School Counselor Association.

I have been a leader in transforming school counseling programs in my district and have served on various committees. I was the chair of the development of a *Middle School Academic Intervention Handbook* and lead writer for the revision of the *Bullying and Harassment District Handbook*. I have also taught accountability courses to elementary, middle, and high school counselors, facilitated district RAMP workshops, created a counselor helper partnership with local university professors and students, and presented to principals & directors of school counselors at district level meetings.

I have presented at VSCA (2008, 2009, and 2010), serve as an ASCA RAMP reviewer, adjudicated ASCA's national school counselor of the year, and presently serve as an Advisory Team Member on the College Board National Office for School Counselor Advocacy.

If given the opportunity to serve on the VSCA board, I will contribute to the mission of the association. Having worked within my district on school counselor transformation, I know that with the appropriate supports and resources, counselors can implement comprehensive programs within their schools that directly impact student achievement and close achievement gaps. Given the challenges the state budget presents, the increased financial need of many families, and the extended deployment of many of our students family members, it is imperative that the association support school counselors through advocacy at local and state levels to ensure that our elected officials understand our role and how our services support students. A believer in lifelong learning, I stay current on issues impacting education and school counselors. I am passionate about school counseling and believe that my skill sets and experience will benefit middle school counselors within the state of Virginia.

**Phyllis Hollimon**

"Phyllis, the students love you and as a school counselor, you will be able to have a greater impact on even more students. Give counseling a year, and if you do not like school counseling, you can always return to teaching eighth grade English." Mr. Dwight Reagan, my former middle school principal, spoke those prophetic words to me eight years ago, and I am happy to say that I have not returned to the teaching profession.

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When Mr. Reagan spoke those words to me, I was excited, nervous, and honored. I cried because I did not want to leave the teaching profession; however, what I did not realize at the time was that Mr. Reagan saw a special gift within me, and more importantly, he believed in the remarkable role that school counselors have in the lives of students, staff, parents, and community. As a principal, he knew the positive impact I, as a school counselor, could have on others. I am eternally grateful for Mr. Reagan allowing me to experience a career that I love. School Counseling enables me to counsel, to teach, to advise, to advocate, and to do so much more...I get immense pleasure in having a profession, "a true calling" that I adore.

I hope to learn from the other board members and serve in any way that I can. My first time attending the VSCA conference was last year. Until last year, I always attended the VCA. At last year's VSCA Conference, I was walking on Cloud 11. I had two super counselors, Dr. Whitehead and Davina Johnson, approach me after I had presented, and they shared that they would love for me to be VP Elect for middle school. Of course, I was honored, and I shared that I would love to serve in any capacity, but I knew I would need their help. After we hugged, I thought wow, how could I have not attended the VSCA Conferences before last year. I loved being surrounded by school counselors that knew and understood what a counselor's day could entail. If I am elected as VP-Elect for Middle School, one of my goals will be to empower every school counselor to feel the thrill and excitement he/she felt when they first became a professional school counselor. Every school counselor remembers their first membership to VSCA, their first VSCA Conference...I know that I remember, and as VP Elect for middle school, I want the VSCA to be an organization that continues to be the first of many great feats.

**SECONDARY VICE PRESIDENT ELECT** (1 candidate)

**Renee Zando**

I am a graduate of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA, where I received a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Elementary Education. After graduation I taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade Civics and Economics at Stonewall Jackson Middle School in Hanover County. After my first year teaching I transferred to a new middle school, Oak Knoll Middle School, also in Hanover County. I taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade Civics and Economics for one year, 6<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History for one year, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Western Hemisphere for two years. In addition to teaching, I coached girl's basketball at Oak Knoll, was the assistant varsity basketball coach at Hanover High School, and was an assistant track coach at Oak Knoll. I also served as the school webmaster at Oak Knoll and Team Leader in 2004-2005. I went back to school in 2005 to start my M.Ed. in Counselor Education at VCU. I graduated in May 2007 and started my first job as a school counselor at Deep Run High School. I am currently in my third year as a high school counselor at Deep Run. I currently serve as the Peer Helpers Sponsor and am the school counseling webmaster at Deep Run.

As Secondary Vice-President Elect on the VSCA board, I hope to build my professional network as well as advocate for my position as a school counselor. I would work with the board to provide professional development opportunities for counselors across Virginia to take back to their schools and districts to improve their school counseling programs. As the Secondary Vice-President Elect, I would make sure there are ample opportunities at the VCSA Conference for counselors at the high school level. I also plan to provide opportunities for counselors to learn how to take care of themselves as well as their students and other stakeholders in their schools and communities. It is my hope that through service on the VSCA board, I would develop into a leader in my profession and be able to share my passion with others.

## **STUDENT VICE PRESIDENT ELECT** (2 candidates)

### **Natoya Haskins**

Currently I am a doctoral student at The College of William and Mary in the Counselor Education program. Over the past five years I was a school counselor in both the City of Richmond and Henrico Public Schools. I during my time in the City of Richmond I was a school counselor at Thomas C. Boushall Middle School. The last two years of my tenure I served as the Department Chair where I instituted several new programs that addressed academic success and career development for the lowest achieving students. I also served as a member of the educational team and chair person of the child study and crisis team.

When I recognized that I wanted to make more of an impact on school counselors in training to prepare them to work with the diverse populations I realized I need to shift my career. In 2008 I entered William and Mary, while concurrently working as a school counselor at John R. Tucker High School as a school counselor. During the past two years I have added to the profession by presenting and researching topics of interest related to school counseling. Some included: School Counselor Advocacy, Social Constructionism and Multicultural Competencies for School Counselors, School Counselors and their Role in Testing, and School Counselors and Students' Spirituality.

As a school counselor and budding counselor educator becoming a member of the VSCA board provides me with a stellar opportunity to continue to shape the Virginia school counseling programs as well as present and support new initiatives.

My plans for my time of service on the VSCA board include the following:

- Helping to improve membership in VSCA, specifically pinpointing school districts with low membership rates
- Providing in-services for school districts whose membership rates are low within the organization
- Using my experiences and research with diverse populations to enhance the field of school counseling through in-service and conference foci
- Helping school counselors develop leadership and collaboration skills through in-service and conference presentations

### **Syreetta Shaw-Stateman**

I am a Hampton resident, wife and proud mother of three boys. I completed a BA in Psychology at the University of VA and a Masters in Counseling at Regent University. I am a second year doctoral student in the Counselor Education and Supervision program at ODU. I enjoy traveling, spending time with my family, volunteering, learning, and working with children and adolescents. I have worked with children and adolescents as a tutor, tester, mentor, teacher, and counselor in various settings such as residential treatment centers, schools, community centers, churches, group homes, and in their own homes. I have also worked with adult populations, addressing relationship issues, anger management, and substance abuse.

As a member of the VSCA board, I intend to contribute my time, energy, ideas, experience, and resources with the aim of fulfilling the mission and vision of VSCA. I look forward to serving the organization and the profession as we collectively seek to communicate and demonstrate the vital role of school counselors in students' success. I seek to assist in any way I can to increase the visibility of VSCA, encourage recruitment, advance the profession, and continue professional development and research efforts. I anticipate the opportunity to celebrate the past and current accomplishments of VSCA and the profession while discovering new, creative, and innovative ways to support the mission and vision of VSCA.

**COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR VICE PRESIDENT ELECT** (1 candidate)

**Tracy Jackson**

I have been a professional school counselor for the past twelve years, receiving a Master's of Science degree in Counselor Education from North Carolina A&T State University. During this time I have worked at every level and was also a high school counseling department chairman. For the past four years, I have been an Instructional Specialist for the Office of Guidance Services and Student Records for Virginia Beach City Public Schools. In my position, I direct and oversee the development of curriculum for K-12 counselors, assist with the implementation of the comprehensive guidance program in 83 schools; collect, analyze and report outcome-oriented data related to the effectiveness of school counseling and plan and execute professional development opportunities for 182 counselors. I also observe all school counselors during classroom guidance lessons and provide feedback, coordinate division scholarships and supervise scholarship chairs at ten high schools and coordinate division-wide counselor meetings. Recently, I completed an administration and supervision endorsement at the University of Virginia. I have presented at two CollegeBoard conferences, as well as a conference and workshop for Joseph Wharff. I am also an active member of Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International.

If elected as the Counseling Supervisor V. P. - Elect for VSCA, I would like to increase communication between state counseling supervisors with the majority being done by electronic means, such as a blog or tweeting. This way we can develop a network which will allow us to share information, provide support, and contribute feedback and ideas. By doing such, we will be in a better position to assist our school counselors and strengthen our school counseling programs, not just with curriculum and lessons, but also evaluation instruments and job specifications that define who and what we are to are various divisions. Lastly, if we could do the latter on a state level, then could solidify our place in school systems without having to worry about positions being lost due to budget cuts.

**COUNSELOR EDUCATOR VICE PRESIDENT ELECT** (1 candidate)

**Denelle Wallace**

I received a B.S. in Elementary Education from Old Dominion University, a M.Ed. in School Counseling from Georgia State University, and a Ph.D. in Urban Services with a concentration in Academic Leadership from Old Dominion University. I have served in the field of education in the states of Virginia and Georgia. I've had many roles during my seventeen years with public schools at the elementary and secondary levels. These many roles included classroom educator, Minority Achievement Leader, AVID Coordinator, and Assistant Principal. Additionally, I received certification in the areas of diversity, professional competence, and coalition building through the Staub Leadership Institute in Greensboro, North Carolina and the National Multicultural Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Currently, I am an assistant professor for Norfolk State University in the Secondary Education and School Leadership Department where I instruct graduate students pursuing master's degrees in school counseling.

Based upon the mission of VSCA and the current economical climate of the state of Virginia, it is my hope that I will play an instrumental role in reiterating the need for professional school counselors in Virginia schools, providing support to VSCA members, increasing membership in VSCA, and supporting professional development opportunities that enhance the skills of professional school counselors.