**PRESS RELEASE**

**Connecticut School Counselor of the Year 2019**

April 4, 2019 - The Connecticut School Counselor Association is pleased to announce that Joy Squitieri, of John Read Middle School, Redding, CT has been named Connecticut School Counselor of the Year.

Joy has been described by her principal as someone who “consistently demonstrates the ability to maintain compassionate and caring relationships with all member of our school community, treating all with respect and kindness, and addressing all situations in a calm and thoughtful manner.” Her office is described as an “upbeat place” where students can go for help, but also feel valued and heard. She is commended for her ability to connect with her students, provide a safe space for each of them all while remaining calm, analyzing situations and providing sound guidance for both students and staff.

Joy, was chosen out of several applications as the Connecticut School Counselor of the Year and will be honored at an awards gala on April 25th as well as at the Connecticut School Counselor Association annual conference at the University of Hartford on May 29, 2019. Joy will now advance to the national level where she will have an opportunity to compete as a semi-finalist in the American School Counselor Association’s “School Counselor of the Year”(SCOY) program. If selected as a semi-finalist, she will be in the running for the “School Counselor of the Year” recognition, which usually takes place in February in Washington, D.C. We wish Joy much luck with the program and are very proud to have her representing school counselors across the State of Connecticut.

Other awards winners include: Jennifer Dunnack, Jonathan Law High School, Milford, CT, School Counseling Internship Supervisor of the Year; Ronald Sefchik of Bacon Academy Counseling Department, Colchester, CT for Outstanding Student Program and Shannon Murphy, from Plainville HS, as Intern of the Year. All will be honored at the CT School Counselor Association’s Awards Gala on April 25th.

The Connecticut School Counselor Association is a division of the American School Counselor Association and is the only professional school counselor organization representing school counselors in the state. The association is run by a Board of Directors and a Governing Board. For more information on the Association, please contact Virginia DeLong, Chairman of the Board, at cscachairman@gmail.com or 860-367-6478.