ALEXANDRIA, VA – Robert Lundien, school counselor at Staley High School in Kansas City, Mo., has been named a 2016 School Counselor of the Year finalist. The award, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation’s students, ensuring they are successful in school and prepared for postsecondary options. He has been a school counselor since 2004.

“Rob has established a reputation as an extremely capable and effective leader who goes above and beyond,” said Clark Mershon, principal, Staley High School. “He is the finest school counselor I have ever had the opportunity and pleasure to work with in my 33 years of education. There isn’t a more qualified educator to help lead the ever-evolving role of the school counseling profession than Rob.”

“Rob’s work on behalf of students is tireless,” said Jennifer Grossman, school counselor, Staley High School. “For the past four years, Rob has overseen our senior events and scholarship responsibilities. As part of these duties, Rob has made sure to be inclusive of our entire student population. Access to
college for all students is a passion for Rob. He exemplifies all that is to be celebrated in this profession. In my 17 years of experience as a school counselor, I have worked with no other colleague with the extraordinary counseling skill set Rob exhibits.”

Lundien, along with the four other School Counselor of the Year finalists and the 2016 School Counselor of the Year recipient, will be flown to Washington, D.C., in late January 2016, for three days of celebratory events. The honorees will be honored at a White House ceremony, have meetings with their members of Congress, attend a congressional briefing and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala.

**About the American School Counselor Association**

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of professional school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic, career and social/emotional development to help today’s students become tomorrow’s productive, contributing members of society. Learn more at [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).