

Bio:

My name is Amber Urbain and I currently serve as a 5th/6th grade school counselor at Prairie Creek Intermediate in College Community School District. I completed my Master's degree in School Counseling at the University of Iowa in 2012. I have served as a counselor at Prairie Creek since the 2012-2013 school year. Also working with me at Prairie Creek is our family dog, Addie, who was certified as a professional therapy dog in 2014. I have been a member of the Iowa School Counseling Association since 2010 and look forward to continuing that valuable partnership. I also have served as a building PBIS Internal Coach since 2014.

Prior to becoming a school counselor, I worked as a social worker in the Cedar Rapids area for seven years. I live in Monticello with my husband, Bob, our son, Nolan, and two dogs, Addie and Lindy.

Candidate Statement:

I am extremely excited about this possible leadership opportunity with ISCA and to continue taking on leadership roles in the Iowa school counseling network. As I entered my fifth year as a school counselor, one of my professional goals was to seek out more opportunities like this and to become actively involved with networking, sharing resources and collaborating with counselors across Iowa. I believe I have settled into the career of school counseling and am very eager to take on additional challenges.

I have begun working toward this goal already this school year by seeking out multiple professional development opportunities and presenting at the 2016 Iowa School Counseling Association conference in November. I loved being able to share resources and personal experiences about working with a professional therapy dog with fellow counselors as a presenter and I always leave the conference feeling invigorated and inspired by what I have learned and heard.

As a counselor, I am constantly seeking out resources to help me improve as a professional and meet the needs of my students as best as possible. I am eager to share these experiences and to advocate for fellow counselors to bring more learning opportunities and share valuable resources. I believe that school counselors need as many opportunities for learning as possible and that these experiences help us serve our students and communities in valuable ways. As the Vice President (Middle), I would strive to connect with fellow counselors so their voices are heard and we feel our needs are being met. As counselors, we are life-long students and opportunities for learning and networking are critical.

I sincerely look forward to the opportunity to serve as an advocate for fellow counselors in Iowa and thank you for your consideration!