

Brandon Drew

Candidate Bio:

Hello my name is Brandon Drew. I currently work as a professional school counselor at West Elementary School in Independence, Iowa. My education includes a degree in teaching social science from the University of Northern Iowa, a Masters of social work from Aurora University and a Masters in school counseling from Buena Vista University. My previous work experiences were in rural Iowa, on a Native American reservation in Arizona, and in the suburbs of Chicago. In my spare time I coach youth sports, spend time with my family, go running/biking, watch movies, and travel.

Candidate Statement:

My vision for school counseling in the state of Iowa is to expand our visibility throughout the nation as a model state for what school counseling can be. Over my thirteen years as a school counselor I have worked in other states and I have never seen counselors work as efficiently and effectively as they do in the state of Iowa. I believe that we need to make statewide standards for grades K-12 a focus of our professional development. This has been done in Indiana with their school counseling competencies for students; using what they started would give us an appropriate base to start from.

Additionally, while holding this position, I would like to see our state clarify what a professional school counselor does on a day-to-day basis. It is imperative for counselors to have a clearly defined role statewide, because when annual budgets are allocated in each district the stakeholders need to know what a professional school counselor does and why they are critical member of their district. Lastly, I would like to continue the work of the counselor academies statewide, put on by the AEAs, by helping to implement the ASCA 3.0 model with principals and evaluators of school counselors.