

## **Renea Ogren**

### **Candidate Bio:**

After receiving my Master's in Educational Psychology and Counseling from University of South Dakota, I began my 28 years as a school counselor. I served 11 years at Remsen-Union CSD and 17 years at MMC CSD. Since the mid 1990's I have served as a PSC adjunct instructor for Buena Vista University, Morningside, and Wayne State. After retiring from MMC, I have continued full-time counselor instruction at BVU. I've taught skills, orientation, ethics, human development, leadership and advocacy, and practicum and capstone projects. I have maintained membership in ASCA, ISCA, and IAACC. I received Counselor of the Year for IAACC twice and 2017 Adjunct Instructor of the Year for BVU. I have enjoyed presenting at ISCA Conference several times and served as Government Chair for several years. I have graciously enjoyed being a board member of ICAN and the UNI Counselor Advisory Board.

### **Candidate Statement:**

For three decades, I have held the same vision as ISCA: A competent, trusted school counselor for every 250 students. Our profession is unique to any position in the school district and the mental health counseling community. The skills our PSC possess make a difference everyday. In these trying times, there is even more urgency to advocate for lower counselor-to-student ratios.

As a past ISCA Government Relations member, I know we need to keep educating our Iowa legislators. I also feel we need to continue to work with the Iowa DE, SAI, and local districts to promote our mission to help all students to succeed.

Another way we can make this vision happen is to provide sound training and follow-up PD to encourage and expect quality counseling programs. High expectations and supportive accountability will do even more to raise our standards of school counselors and their programs across Iowa. We need to work together to provide those resources.

As Counselor Educators in Iowa, we need to continue to meet and share a united front to continue to keep our Master's programs the best in the country. Sharing our best practices will ensure we are preparing quality counselors.

I am passionate about counseling and student achievement. Daily, I try to advocate for our students. When listening to our students, we try to make things happen. Improvements in our BVU PSC program grew out of student persistence. Working together as a team, and with our friends from business, industry, and non-profits, we can continue show our students we believe in their future. AND their future...is OUR future!