



## Wisconsin School Counselor Association, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Marianne Matt Named 2021 Wisconsin School Counselor of the Year



**Madison, WI** - Marianne Matt, school counselor at the Capital High School and the School Age Parent Program (SAPAR) in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) has been named the 2021 Wisconsin School Counselor of the Year by the Wisconsin School Counselor Association. Matt has been a school counselor for nearly seven years supporting opportunity youth. Matt is a leader not only for her school and district, but also for the state of Wisconsin, serving as the WSCA Publications Director. Matt was awarded the Wisconsin School Counselor Program Accountability Report Program of Promise in 2020 for the impact her data driven program made to close achievement and opportunity gaps.

Annually, the WSCA School Counselor of the Year is awarded to honor a school counselor who has demonstrated a profound impact on the profession of school counseling. The winners have devoted their careers to advocating for students while demonstrating the impact they have on students' academic, career and social/emotional development. Marianne Matt was selected as the 2021 School Counselor of the Year based on her ability to create lasting change within the profession through leadership, collaboration and advocacy.

Matt designs and delivers a data informed comprehensive school counseling program which is aligned with the equity vision of her school. The cornerstone of her counseling program is relationships, followed by data. ***“She skillfully accompanies young people to deal with the crisis in their current lives while guiding them to look forward and set goals for their future college and career goals. And she does it all while making each of us feel special and bringing laughter and love to our lives,”*** MMSD Social Worker, Megan Miller shared.

Matt works closely with Madison College to connect her students to opportunities that will prepare them for post high school success. Capital High Teacher, Joel Jarosky shared ***“She is the reason our school now has a college-going culture, and that our students, who previously did not see college as an option for themselves, now do.”*** After examining student data, Matt saw that only 52% of her African American and Multiracial seniors taking a dual credit English course were earning college credit. Matt adjusted her school counseling programming and as a result, the number of students earning a C or better and receiving college credit increased by 15%. Matt also recognized that while 69% of her seniors were enrolling in college, many more were expressing interest and not applying. In response, she offered more classroom lessons and met with students individually more often and as a result college enrollment increased to 84%.

The School Counselor of the Year will be recognized on February 4, 2021 during WSCA's National School Counseling Week “Virtual” Breakfast Celebration. Matt will go on to represent Wisconsin in the National School Counselor of the Year process and will represent our state during the American School Counselor of the Year celebration in February of 2022.

Nominations for the School Counselor of the Year award are submitted to the WSCA Professional Recognition & Scholarship Committee and are reviewed and rated by a committee of school counselors. Award recipients are determined based off of their contributions to the school counseling program, leadership, and service to their community.

#### **About the Wisconsin School Counselor Association**

*School Counselors are essential to the lifelong learning and success of all students. Our vision is for Wisconsin to be the model for excellence in equitable school counseling practice, exemplified by the advocacy, leadership, and expertise of the members of the WSCA. Focused on providing quality professional development opportunities, supporting comprehensive school counseling programs, and giving one voice to professional school counselors, WSCA is dedicated to empowering school counselors throughout the state. For additional information about WSCA visit [www.wscaweb.org](http://www.wscaweb.org)*

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