



AMERICAN  
SCHOOL  
COUNSELOR  
ASSOCIATION

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**KETCHIKAN HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
NAMED AS FINALIST FOR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR**  
*Robert McClory from Ketchikan, Alaska Among Top Eight*

**Alexandria, VA, January 25, 2010** – Robert McClory, a school counselor from Ketchikan High School, has been named one of the top eight school counselors in America. McClory is one of more than 250 elementary, middle, and secondary school counselors nationwide who were nominated for the School Counselor of the Year award. The award, which is presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates and often lifesavers for the nation's students.

A school counselor for twenty three years, McClory constantly strives to help his students overcome obstacles and reach their fullest potential. He does this by supporting, advocating and empowering his high school students to seek reasons to graduate and move on as lifelong learners. For example, McClory developed and runs a regional college fair for Ketchikan students, and others in Southeast Alaska, to learn about post graduation opportunities. He also coordinates financial aid nights to assist parents and students with the process and engages community financial service providers in the process. He is committed to helping his students find and secure all available opportunities that will enable them to develop, pursue and secure postsecondary opportunities to find personal success and make societal contributions through their own education and career paths.

“Bob is an educational entrepreneur,” said Dr. Linda Hardin, Curriculum Director, Ketchikan Gateway School District. “There appear to be no limits to his leadership, tenacity, pleasant nature, and guidance skills.”

McClory is a respected leader both in his school and his community. He is active on various boards and projects dedicated to increasing opportunities for local youth in a variety of areas, including sports, the arts and service. He helped start Ketchikan's Annual Go For the Gold Volleyball Camps, which annually encourages young women to become skilled in volleyball, and has brought former Olympic volleyball players including Lloy Ball to teach and inspire young players.

McClory currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Ketchikan Theatre Ballet and PATCH-Works, an organization which strives to increase the number of Developmental Assets promoted by the SEARCH Institute. He is an active member of the Ketchikan Art Center Steering Committee and is the Alaska Junior Miss Scholarship Program State Coordinator. McClory has also been involved in the development of the Community Wellness Coalition, which is focused on drug and alcohol awareness. Most recently, he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Legion in 2009.

McClory is the proud father of Patricia McClory who is currently earning her DMD at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in Boston, and Aimee McClory, who was the Alaska Junior Miss Scholarship winner and is currently finishing her BSN in nursing and dance at the University of Miami. He lives with his wife, Emily, who works as a Public Health Nurse in Ketchikan.

The School Counselor of the Year awards program was open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. The top eight school counselors were nominated by their peers and administrators and judged by a select panel to be the “best of the best.”

The candidates were judged on several criteria, including: creative school counseling innovations, effective counseling programs, leadership skills, and contributions to student advancement.

“School counselors make significant contributions to the overall well-being of students and their success,” said Richard Wong, Executive Director, American School Counselor Association. “They have unique qualifications and skills that allow them to address students' academic achievement, personal/social and career development needs.”

McClory, along with the other seven finalists, will be flown to Washington, D.C., on January 27, 2010, for three days of celebratory events. The honorees will have meetings with their Members of Congress, attend a Congressional briefing and reception, and be formally recognized at a black-tie gala.

The legislative co-sponsors for the 2010 School Counselor of the Year program are: Senators Lisa Murkowski from Alaska and Arlen Specter from Pennsylvania and Representatives Raul Grijalva from Arizona and Vernon Ehlers from Michigan. The 2010 program is sponsored in part by Naviance, the Universal Technical Institute (UTI), and the American Federation of Teachers.

For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, please visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).

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 achievement, personal and social development, and career planning to help today's students become tomorrow's productive, contributing members of society. Founded in 1952, ASCA currently has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of more than 26,000 school counseling professionals.

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