

BIO:

Hello! I am a K-12 School Counselor entering my third year serving the Central Community School District in Elkader, Iowa. I grew up on a farm near Ackley, Iowa and earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Central College in Pella in 2012. After that I worked for a short while in schools as a paraeducator before earning my Master of Arts degree in School Counseling from the University of Northern Iowa in 2016. I am passionate about mental health and trauma informed care in our schools. In addition to my counseling duties, I am also the NHS advisor and assistant large group speech coach. I live with my husband, Tracy, who teaches high school science at North Fayette Valley, and our cat, Bert. I enjoy being outside and exploring Northeast Iowa with my husband, reading, and spending time at the gym.

Candidate's Statement:

Hello! I am a K-12 School Counselor entering my third year serving the Central Community School District in Elkader, Iowa. While I have been in the field for short time, I am excited for the opportunity to serve on the Iowa School Counselor Association's Governing Board as the K-12 VP. Serving multiple grade levels poses a myriad of unique challenges and opportunities for school counselors. The Iowa School Counselor Association has been a constant resource and support system since my first year of graduate school at the University of Northern Iowa in 2014. I would be honored to continue Shelby Bryce's positive leadership for K-12 counselors in Iowa.

My vision for school counseling in Iowa is one of continuous support, advocacy, and professional development. School counselors have unique roles with specialized skills, knowledge, and training; others do not always look at and address problems or situations in our school systems with the same lens as school counselors. It is our job to address the whole child as well as identify and remove barriers to student success. For this reason, it is imperative for school counselors to have a professional community to support their efforts and provide opportunities to grow and learn from each other.

Since becoming a K-12 school counselor, I have learned the integral role advocacy plays in our profession. I used to think of advocacy primarily regarding the needs of students, but now I see the need to advocate for our profession to be just as important. I am constantly working to better inform stakeholders on my role as the sole counselor in the district because if I don't define my role, others will define it for me. Ultimately, advocating for our positions is also advocating for what is best for the needs of all students.