



Candidate Bio and Vision Statement

Name: Courtney N. Cook

ISCA Office Sought: President Elect-Elect

Short bio of your education and background, not to exceed 175 words (will be shared on the ISCA website with election materials)

I am a proud Professional School Counselor, emerging administrator, and change agent with a progressive outlook on education and Social-Emotional-Behavioral Health in Iowa. My background may be a bit more eclectic than your typical ISCA President candidate, but I hope that doesn't scare you. As Diane Ackerman said: *"I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I have just lived the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well."* I aim to tap into my experiences and strengths to support the ISCA board in continuing its efforts in providing ample professional development opportunities for Iowa's School Counselors. I am a passionate advocate for Social Emotional Learning and sustaining positive learning environments through first establishing solid Adult SEL and cultures of belonging and equity. I am eager to expand my advocacy for Professional School Counselors beyond Northwest Iowa to reach Administrators and Legislators throughout the state so they truly understand and trust the dynamic leader a Professional School Counselor can be in their districts.

Candidate's statement of vision of school counseling in Iowa and how you would like to contribute to ISCA through the position for which you are seeking election, not to exceed 300 words (will be shared on the ISCA website with election materials)

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

School Counselors are tremendous resources and assets to the school districts and students of Iowa. Unfortunately, so many of us often feel isolated and frustrated by administrators and colleagues who do not understand our roles and potential. My vision for ISCA is for it to continue offering dynamic professional development opportunities and conferences and to foster authentic collaboration to connect counselors from across districts and regions throughout the state.

My unique experiences and roles also spark a vision of collaboration not just between us as School Counselors, but with administrators, our AEAs, community partners, and the Department of Education. By synergizing with these other leaders and agencies, we can move school communities ahead together and support ALL students by bridging gaps and working as one. It will take a great deal of communication and persistence, but I am committed to pulling it off.