**VSCA’s Award Criteria – November 2019**

**School Counselor of the Year Award**

The purpose of the school counselor of the year award is to recognize two outstanding professionals (elementary and secondary) who have made a positive impact in their schools with students, teachers and parents. Contributions to the profession can be measured by the use of the ASCA National model, evidence of data-driven practices and the implementation of a comprehensive counseling program. In order to receive full consideration for the award the following items must be shown within the application packet:

- The nominee must be currently employed as a full-time counselor and have completed five years of counseling service at the time of nomination.
- The nominee must be a VSCA member. Membership will be verified.
- The nominee must hold a master’s degree and be certified as a school counselor.
- The nominee must show evidence of innovations in counseling, provide leadership on school committees and within the counseling office.
- The nominee must show evidence of use/implementation of the ASCA National Model.
- The nominee must demonstrate leadership in the field of counseling as evidenced by presentations at state and national conferences, and outstanding service in the community.
- The activities or accomplishments referenced in the application must have taken place within the last five years.

**Leadership Award**

The purpose of the Leadership award is to provide an avenue to recognize those individuals who work in a supervisory role and support the counseling profession by their leadership and advocacy for the counselors in their school or district. These individuals should show evidence of leadership and service, which has had a positive impact on improving the counseling field, and the services offered by those they supervise. Applications should include the following:

- The nominee must be currently employed as an administrator or division-level counseling director and have served in that capacity for at least five years at their present position or a combination of positions.
- The nominator should be a VSCA member. Membership will be verified.
- The nominee should have primary responsibility for working with counselors and other student support personnel.
- The nominee must demonstrate evidence of training programs and in-services provided to keep counselors abreast of current trends in counseling such as the ASCA National Model.
- The nominee must show the implementation of innovative counseling programs and where applicable provide support for pursuing ASCA RAMP status.
- The nominee must recognize the importance of school counselors within the schools and support attendance at workshops and conferences.
- The nominee must demonstrate evidence of implementing a comprehensive school counseling program and the ASCA National Model in the schools that they supervise.
- The activities or accomplishments referenced in the application must have taken place within the last five years.