

## Good to Great

Welcome back to the 2007/08 school year! As I start my new year I am amazed by the excitement that this year's kindergarten class has brought into our building. The twinkle in their eyes is blinding. Everything they do or see creates a new experience to add to their repertoire of life skills. New building, new room, new teacher, new classmates, new schedule, new activities and new classroom materials create excitement at every turn. Everything and most everybody is a novel experience. I contrast this with the experiences of my returning intermediate students and I'm still able to witness a type of anxiousness or reserved excitement that is only visible during the startup of every school year.

We as professional educators, have a lot to be excited about as we start our new year. New students, new peers, new administrators, maybe even a new office or room, all give us an eagerness about what we see as growth potential for students, ourselves and our profession. The opportunity that we have by demonstrating that school counselors do indeed enhance student achievement is unlimited.

As I enter my year as President of our Kentucky School Counselor Association, I too am thrilled. Plans are being made to secure speakers and vendors for the annual conference in Lexington on March 5-8, 2008. Our intentions are to make it our best ever. Membership and recruitment activities are underway. Plans for a statewide celebration of School Counselor Week in February 2008, are being initiated. Work is underway for the publication of a KSCA Policy Manual, and discussions on how best to encourage the use of the Kentucky Guide as a companion to the American School Counselor Association National Model for School Counseling Programs continues. As you can see, we as professional school counselors have a lot to be excited about.

Being a counselor places you in a unique position to have a positive impact on in your schools. All students have the opportunity to discover their potential regardless of whether that potential is in class, on the playing field, in the community or at church. Our efforts, as being positive change agents, allow us to see growth for all students. This growth will help them transition from being successful students to successful adults.

Jim Collins, author of "Good to Great", tells us that true greatness will come from continually striving and growing, and never being content. We always need to recognize that "good" is the enemy of "great". These are strong words as we approach our new school year. I encourage you to make this a great year for your students, yourself, and our profession. Become involved in our professional organizations on both the state and national level. Volunteer to be on a committee or help at the conference. Consider a position of leadership by running for a state office. Serve as a mentor for a new counselor or offer to share your experiences by teaching or speaking with a counseling class at one of our state universities. Try to incorporate at least one portion of the ASCA National Model into your school's counseling program. As you can see, the opportunities are endless. As you strive to be great, so goes our profession. I hope each and every one of you are able to be like my kindergarten students and relive the excitement of starting school for the first time. Don't be happy with "good". Make plans now to have a "great" year.