



GAIL M. SMITH, Ed.S.

RAMP Specialist



BIOGRAPHY

"When I began my school counseling career in a dropout prevention program, I soon realized that most students who enrolled in our program were at risk of dropping out because they felt marginalized and stigmatized in their home high schools. Their life stories moved me to become a voice for students who were clinging to hope they would succeed in an alternative school setting. As their school counselor, I felt a tremendous responsibility to make a difference in their lives. Working with marginalized students led me to district, state, and national advocacy efforts focused on equity and access for all students."

Gail is a former Supervisor of School Counseling for the Cobb County School District, where she served for 12 years. She was responsible for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program in Cobb, which produced over 30 Recognized ASCA National Model Program schools, two ASCA School Counselors of the Year, a top ten finalist, and two top five finalists before her retirement in 2018. Prior to serving as Supervisor, she was a School Counselor in a dropout prevention high school for 18 years.

Gail is a past president of the Georgia School Counselor Association (GSCA) and served as GSCA Advocacy Chair/Co-chair for approximately two decades. Working with other school counselor advocates, she was instrumental in legislation that lowered counselor ratios and fully funded all subgroups of students. In 2012, she was the GSCA Supervisor of the Year, and in 2014, she received the GSCA Lifetime Achievement Award and the President's Inspiration Award. In 2015, she was an honoree for the YWCA Women of Achievement and received the Carl D. Perkins Government Relations Award from the American Counseling Association.

Gail graduated from Georgia State University (GSU) with a B.S. Degree in Secondary English Education. While teaching, she earned a Master's Degree and an Education Specialist Degree in School Counseling from Georgia State University. She served as a RAMP Reviewer and is presently a Lead RAMP Reviewer for ASCA. Now retired, she continues to support school counselors by training on the ASCA National Model and coaching schools applying for RAMP.

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ACA Carl D. Perkins Government Relations Award 2015
- Georgia School Counselor Association Lifetime Achievement Award 2014
- Georgia School Counselor Association Inspiration Award 2014
- YWCA Women of Achievement Award Honoree 2015
- Georgia School Counselor Association Past-President 2011-2012
- ASCA RAMP Reviewer and Lead RAMP Reviewer

FUN FACTS

- I fangirled when I met First Lady Michelle Obama.
- I collect Hard Rock pins.
- I like ketchup on gravy and biscuits.

TESTIMONIALS

"As a new Coordinator, I quickly realized that Ms. Smith's knowledge of school counseling, especially the ASCA Model, was a great resource to our school counseling program. During my first year, she conducted comprehensive model training. The training was engaging and demonstrated her knowledge of not only school counseling but the entire school process (teaching, learning, and operations). The school counselors appreciated her meticulous details, especially in the area of using data to drive programs/services as well as the opportunity to produce tangible products to be implemented by their schools."

-Lakisha Bonner, Director of School Counseling & CTE, Fayette County School District, GA

Email

Gailcounselor.smith@gmail.com