

# School Counselor

# CASSIE PONCELOW

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## ABOUT

- ◆ Innovative and energetic leader
- ◆ Advanced technology skills and practical integration of these skills to take counseling services to the next level
- ◆ Experience with Multi-Tiered System of Supports and differentiation to personalize work with every student through progress monitoring
- ◆ Continuously striving for accountability through data driven services for all students
- ◆ Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- ◆ Master community networker
- ◆ Forward thinking and research grounded approach to providing services
- ◆ Efficient and creative team member who seeks to value all stakeholders

## EDUCATION

- M. Ed, Colorado State University  
Counseling and Career Development,  
2011
- B.S., Colorado State University  
Interior Design, 2007

## EXPERIENCE

2013

PRESENT

**PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR**, Poudre High School, Fort Collins, CO

Part of a dynamic team providing ASCA National Model services to 1800 students in grades 9-12 including working with a caseload of approximately 250 students. In addition to providing data-driven services for all students, serve as teacher for the PHS Ambassadors—50 upperclassmen who provide weekly mentoring and education (sexual assault, goal setting, suicide prevention) to all PHS Freshmen. Specializing in transition, has facilitated district transition activities, Parent Pathways events and ninth grade “Career Groups” focused on student strengths and developing interests. Passionate about marginalized students and consistently recognized for leadership .

**Developed, facilitated and was awarded over \$160,000 in grant funding for Opportunities Unlimited**, a district-wide dropout recovery program for students ages 17-21 focused on GED completion and Concurrent Enrollment opportunities. In two years the program has recovered and graduated 26 students and helped raise district graduation rates.

**Actualized Mental Health Matters, A Parent and Community Education Event** that had over 400 attendees at 20+ breakout sessions focused on adolescent mental health topics and become an annual district event.

**Awarded over \$60,000 in grant funding for “Pathways Programming”**, including developing Career Cabs, a bi-monthly career exploration opportunity that has allowed over 600 students to visit job sites in the community over the past three years and expanded to high schools across the state.

**Generated an annual ACT Prep Program for over 250 Juniors** including training teachers, facilitating a full-length practice exam, two days of breakout sessions and data management for the program. Over three years, participating students demonstrated gains of 1.7 points and students who were below benchmarks in two or more subject areas experienced an average growth of 2.5 points on their State ACT Exams.

**Creator and lead facilitator for SPARKS, a two-week summer program for at-risk incoming Freshmen** that focuses on community building, career exploration and academic skills development. SPARKS has included 97 students in the past three years and over 80% of students remained on track for graduation following their Freshman Year.

**Leader in a school-wide transition to Pathways** for all ninth and tenth grade students. Data from this model indicates that over 70% of students felt connected to PHS after the first 8 weeks of school and the number of courses failed by freshmen dropped 40% from 2016 to 2017.

# QUOTABLE

# {CASSIE PONCELOW}



*“Cassie is one of the few people who has been able to effectively communicate with my son and to motivate him to perform. This is due to a competence in her field, but more than that, it is due to an innate ability to understand and communicate with all types of people.” - FCHS Parent*

*“Cassie is a collaborator, a relationship builder, technical expert and community liaison. She is that well rounded, exceptional person who will make a difference.” - PHS Administrator*

*“When she talks to a student or colleague, that person feels like the only person who matters. She will drop everything to be of assistance.”—RMHS Integrated Services Teacher*

*“There are leaders, then there are those who lead. Leaders hold positions of power. Those who lead inspire. Cass inspires.”— PHS Counselor*

*“Her strong independent and self-directed style complements a systemic, critical thinking and problem solving nature needed by educational leaders who stand above the crowd to put students first.” - CSU Professor*

*“Her leadership on our team is simply unmatched. She creates a climate of collaboration, innovation, and celebration. Coming to work is an absolute blast because of her.” -PHS Counseling Support Staff*

*“No other adult has impacted my life the way Ms. Poncelow has. It is crazy how much she actually cares about every student. I feel heard by her and safe with her. She challenges me to grow and pushes me to take risks. The best part is, she’s just herself—silly, awkward and real. And it lets me be that too.”*

- PHS Student



## 2011

**PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR**, Fort Collins High School, Fort Collins CO

Delivered ASCA National Model services to students in grades 9-12 at a 1600 student school including working with a caseload of 275 students. Experience working with special populations in working with over 80 students on Individualized Education Plans. Recognized for collaboration and efficiency in service delivery and exceptional communication including work as the department Webmaster. Leader for PBIS Attendance Team working to develop strategic school-wide attendance interventions including a social norming campaign, incentive program and development of RtI interventions strategy specific to truancy. Wrote grants to support programming, implemented district truancy model and developed community and parent communications to support attendance awareness.

## 2010

**SCHOOL COUNSELING INTERNSHIP AND PRACTICUM**, Rocky Mountain High School and Lincoln Middle, an IB World School, Fort Collins, CO

Provided comprehensive counseling services to students in grades 6 – 12 at a 500 student middle school and 2200 student high school. Data manager for school wide Climate and Culture survey, including writing, administering and then analyzing the data for a bullying intervention program. Developed and taught an organizational skills curriculum for sixty 6-7th grade students that had an 85% success rate for improved organization based survey and teacher/parent evaluation and ran a small group focused on grief and loss.

## 2011

# CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Presenter at State, National and International Conferences including:**

- Pathways to the Future-From the Desk to the World of Work*—American School Counselor Association Annual National Conference, July 2017
- Pathways to the Future: Transforming High School*—Colorado Association of School Executives Conference and Colorado State School Counselor Association Conference, July/November 2016
- National Congressional Briefing Panelist and Representative—*Reviving the American Dream By Using Career Development to Prepare All Young Adults for Career Success*, Washington, D.C., February 2016
- Changing Climate and Culture Through Student Mentoring Programs*, International Bullying Prevention Conference, November 2015
- Taking Your Career Programming on the Road: Innovative Ways to Get Students Out of the Classroom and Into the World of Work*, Colorado State School Counselor Association Conference and CCHSCR Conference, November/December 2015
- Show Me the Money! Grant Writing Basics to get your next idea off the ground*—Colorado State School Counselor Association Conference, November 2013
- Getting the Most Out of Groups for Guys*—Colorado State School Counselor Association Conference, November 2011
- Media Savvy and Technology-Literate—the 21st Century School Counselor*—Colorado State School Counselor Association Conference, November 2010

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015

PRESENT

JOURNEY LEADER, GLOBAL LEADERS, Fort Collins CO

On staff with Global Leaders (non-profit) Local Service Program and International Leadership Program. Specializing in leadership development, including annually leading 50+ high school students during a two-week immersion and service program in Guatemala. Facilitate team-building and skill development activities at bi-monthly seminars as well as a three-day retreat. Work with students to complete sixty hours of local service and over forty hours of international service annually. Co-founder and facilitator of Girls Rites, a Global Leaders Program, focusing on the empowerment of young women and mentoring students through service, leadership and adventure.

2016

PRESENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, KIDS AT HEART, Fort Collins CO

Vice President and Chair of Board Development for Kids at Heart, a non-profit supporting foster, adoptive and kinship families in Northern Colorado through bi-monthly respite events and summer programs. Kids at Heart will serve over 400 children and families in 2017.

Summer 2011

Summer 2012

NOAH'S ARK RAFTING AND ADVENTURE COMPANY, Buena Vista, CO

Reservations and adventure staff for the largest whitewater rafting company in Gallatin Valley that services an average of 900 rafters on a weekly basis. Responsible for customer service in the company lodge including making phone reservations, trip payments, sales and rentals. Co-led multiple 3-5 day backing adventures for youth ages 13-21 focused on team building and personal growth.

2007

2011

MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM, Rocky Mountain High School, Fort Collins, CO

Lead educator in the Media and Technology Center. Developed and presented curriculum to 200 classes annually. Awarded over \$4200 dollars in grants written for technology integration in social studies classrooms and for book sets for integrating literacy with teen issues. Implemented and presented at Tech Fest 2011, a technology professional development opportunity for staff.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Colorado School Counselor Association Member (CSCA)

American School Counselor Association Member (ASCA)

Colorado Council on High School/College Relations Member (CCHSCR)

Certified Therapy Dog Team, Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ADT)

## HONORS

American School Counselor Association, Finalist for National School Counselor of the Year, 2018

Finalist for the Escalante-Gradillas Best in Education Award, 2017

Blue and Gold Award, Honorary FFA Member, 2017

CSCA Colorado School Counselor of the Year, 2016

yMPCT (Youth Making Positive Changes Together) Educator through CSU, 2016-2017

Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) Award Winner from the Colorado Department of Education, 2015

Mary Hull Collaborative Award (Supporting Special Populations) Nominee, 2013

CSCA Carol Hacker Memorial Graduate Scholarship Recipient, 2010

Association of Classified Employees Exceptional Performance Award, 2010

Rocky Mountain High School Honor Staff, 2010

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries Leadership Fellow, 2003-2007

CSU Legacy Scholar, 2004-2005