

Kelli Johnson

Candidate Bio:

Originally from Monticello, Iowa, Kelli Johnson attended the University of Dubuque for her Bachelor's degree with a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice in 2006. She then earned her Master's in Counseling from the University of Northern Iowa in 2012. During her internship experience, Kelli started her career as a K-6 counselor at Jacobson Elementary in the Belmont-Klemme Community School District. While at Belmont, Kelli implemented PBIS, the "Backpack Program," and a school based mentoring program called "Bronco Buddies." Currently, Kelli is serving as the K-2 School Counselor at Starry Elementary in the Marion Independent School District. Kelli has also served as At-Risk Coordinator and is currently serving as Tier 1, 2 & 3 PBIS Coach and 504 Coordinator. Kelli also became a member of the Iowa Leadership Cohort in 2014, and presented on her lunch bunch groups at the 2015 ISCA conference. Kelli is a member of the Iowa School Counselor Association and American School Counseling Association.

Candidate Statement:

After earning my Master's Degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 2012, and beginning my first job, I soon found that the profession lacked support from our legislators, school officials, parents, and community. My graduate school professors and classmates were so helpful in those first few years. However, being so passionate about school counseling, I began to pay attention to the work the Iowa School Counselor Association was doing to change this.

I began attending Day on the Hill to lobby for support of school counselors, attended the ISCA Annual Conference, and became part of the Iowa Leadership Cohort in order to play a part in this vital change. I also asked to speak at local school board meetings to advocate and educate the board on the role of the school counselor and show them results from my program. These small steps helped tremendously. I learned that many people, including those in power, are willing to give support to school counselors. However, with the changes happening within the profession, many of these people are uneducated about appropriate roles, responsibilities, and outcomes of school counseling. My experiences and leadership qualities have led me to desire a position on the Iowa School Counselor Association Board of Directors.

If given the opportunity to serve on the board, I would like to reach out to other elementary school counselors regarding their interests and needs. This might include guidance on advocating for their program, assistance in seeking appropriate professional development, and helping them find resources that will help them build a model program. I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to share these resources on social media and work with other board members to promote the profession that I am so passionate about.