

## **Melissa Murphy**

### **Candidate Bio:**

I graduated from The University of Iowa's school counseling program in 2008 and have been the school counselor at Springville Secondary School since that fall. Prior to becoming a school counselor, I taught English and coordinated gifted programming, both at the secondary level. I serve as a site supervisor, hosting school counseling practicum and internship students, and represent my school on several interagency committees, working effectively with representatives of post-secondary institutions, business professionals, and other community leaders. Completing ASCA's School Counselor Leadership Specialist training has enabled me to adapt my leadership style and view challenges and solutions from a number of perspectives.

In a small district, everyone wears many hats: I have many roles beyond delivering classroom lessons and conducting small group and individual counseling. I have worked with administrators, teachers, and community leaders to create a near-peer mentoring program, implement a meaningful MTSS program for students of all abilities, and develop school-wide, high quality project based learning opportunities for all students.

### **Candidate Statement:**

I have been an ISCA member since my student days and it has been an important part of my professional development. I remember when ISCA's primary function was planning the conference and the website was a handful of links to other resources. ISCA has since grown to play an important role in advocating for school counselors and ensuring our voices are heard in discussions of important initiatives across the state.

Having served on the board as the newsletter chair for several years, I have a more than passing acquaintance with ISCA's mission and the work of the board in fulfilling that mission. I will be a strong and effective president elect-elect, advocating for the needs of Iowa's school counselors and students. This is an exciting time to be a school counselor in Iowa and I would be honored to lead an organization that works so powerfully for our profession.