



NEWS RELEASE

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BCPS executive director of social-emotional support, Relay Elementary principal earn statewide honors from school counselor association

TOWSON, MD. – The Maryland School Counselor Association has selected Jason Barnett, principal of Relay Elementary School, as its Administrator of the Year, and Dr. Amalio Nieves, executive director of the Baltimore County Public Schools’ Department of Social-Emotional Support, as its Dr. Vivian Lee School Counselor Advocate of the Year.

Barnett and Nieves will be formally honored during the Maryland School Counselor Association’s first virtual gala on Friday, Mar. 19, at 6 p.m. on Facebook Live.

Dr. Nikki Ham, MSCA recognition chair, wrote to Barnett, “The Maryland School Counselor Association created this [Administrator of the Year] award to recognize an administrator in a Maryland school who has empowered and enriched the school counseling program. You have demonstrated support for the school counselor’s comprehensive school counseling program.”

In her letter to Nieves, Ham wrote, “Congratulations, you were selected by the Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA) as Dr. Vivian Lee School Counselor Advocate of the Year. Your commitment to the improvement of school counseling services in Baltimore County Public Schools is significant.”

The award is named after Dr. Vivian Lee, a school counselor who dedicated her life to advocating for students.

(Editor's note: Photos of Barnett and Nieves accompany this news release.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).