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CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, 605-773-7228, mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us or
Ruth Raveling, 605-773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

Photo caption: Dakota Prairie Elementary Principal Kirstin Girard (left) and school counselor Randi Hartman.



Dakota Prairie Elementary in Brookings earns national recognition

PIERRE, S.D. – The American School Counselor Association has announced Dakota Prairie Elementary in Brookings as a Recognized ASCA Model Program. The school will be honored at a recognition ceremony at ASCA’s annual conference in Boston in July.

“I commend Dakota Prairie Elementary for earning this designation,” said Interim Secretary of Education Dr. Ben Jones. “It shows that school counselor Randi Hartman is leading a counseling program that is a highly effective, integrated piece of the school’s overall mission.”

Dakota Prairie is the second school in South Dakota to earn this honor. Fred Assam Elementary in the Brandon Valley School District earned RAMP recognition in 2016.

The RAMP designation recognizes schools that are committed to delivering an exemplary comprehensive school counseling program. Honorees are awarded for aligning their program with the criteria in the ASCA National Model, a framework for a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. Since the program’s inception, more than 820 schools have been designated as RAMP recipients.

RAMP applications are reviewed once a year and assessed in 12 different program areas. The next submission deadline is Oct. 15. For more information on the program, visit www.schoolcounselor.org/ramp.