

It is an incredible honor to stand before you today as we recognize an exceptional member of the college admission counseling profession. Each year, we come together to celebrate someone whose dedication, leadership, and service have left a lasting mark on students, colleagues, and the college counseling field.

There are so many individuals deserving of this recognition, and I have been fortunate to stand before you in past years to honor exceptional colleagues.

I am very grateful to be a part of this recognition knowing this individual has had a tremendous impact – not only on our field but also on me personally.

This individual's unwavering commitment to students, families, and fellow professionals has not only shaped countless futures but has also strengthened the foundation of this association.

Throughout their career, this person has been a leader, a coach, a mentor, an advocate, a problem solver, and – above all – a champion for students. Whether serving in key leadership roles, shaping policy on regional and national committees, or rolling up their sleeves when challenges arise, they have approached this work with both heart and determination. Facing the challenges of an ever-changing admissions landscape, they have never shied away from the hard work needed to create meaningful change.

Perhaps what stands out most about this person is their deep dedication to lifting others. They have supported colleagues around the desk, generously sharing wisdom, support, and encouragement. They have been a guiding light for many, always willing to lend an ear, offer advice, and help navigate challenges - big or small.

Because of their tireless efforts, the field of college counseling is stronger, students are better supported, and those of us privileged to know and work alongside them are better professionals – and better people.

Whether reminding us that leadership is service to others and we should thank the people that have made a difference in our lives – AKA: Lollipop moments in Dover, DE OR supporting those that didn't see themselves in certain roles to believe in themselves because YOU believed in them – You, our recipient of the Apperson Award have done this and SO much more for your colleagues.

Now, that the secret has been let out --- I'll also add...

She began her career in school counseling, working at George C. Marshall High School, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, and McLean High School.

Most of you are probably aware that Robyn is a past president of PCACAC and served on the NACAC board.

Most recently, Robyn retired from FCPS after spending 15 years as the Director of Student Services at Chantilly High School.

After a decorated 27-year career in Fairfax County Public Schools, she was elected to represent Dranesville District on the Fairfax County School Board in 2023.

So today, it is with great appreciation and admiration that we present Robyn Lady with this well-deserved honor. Thank you for your service, your leadership, and your unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives.

Quote: A true mentor wants to see you rise to the top and is willing to let you stand on their shoulders to get there.