

## 2020 AASP Administrator of the Year

### Krista Cox, PhD

The Arizona Association of School Psychologists recognizes the importance of relationships between administrators and school psychologists. The partnerships formed with our administrator colleagues are vital in ensuring that psychologists are able to maintain best practices in all areas of work within the school community. Our educational leaders set the stage for school climate and culture. This year's recipient of the 2020 Administrator of the Year award is Krista Cox, PhD. She has been the principal at Campo Verde High School in Gilbert Public Schools for four years and a high school administrator in Arizona for eight years. Prior to her administrative career, Cox taught high school English and coached Cross Country and Track. Cox received her bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, master's degree from Northern Arizona University, and earned her doctorate degree from Grand Canyon University.



Cox's colleagues describe her in this way: "The Campo Verde High School community, its staff, and its students are the daily beneficiaries of Dr. Cox's passion for education, pursuit of excellence, dedication to inclusiveness and unshakeable optimism. Her energy, drive and enthusiasm are inspiring and contagious. She is entirely accessible to the staff and families, and a consistent presence on campus. Her authenticity creates a climate in which her staff and students are called upon to be their very best."

Cox goes to great lengths to ensure all students feel included and celebrated for their gifts and unique talents. She promotes academic excellence in all forms and is an ardent supporter of the arts, athletics and vocational training. One colleague noted that Cox shares her passion about mental health awareness and care at Campo, not only during specific events but within the culture of the school. Her staff members noted that being on her campus immediately places them in the Campo family. During recent A+ School judging, a student with Autism shared, "In case you can't tell, I have Autism, but I like it here at Campo. They accept me as I am and don't treat me any different here." Her colleague noted that this statement powerfully portrays the atmosphere and community Cox has created at Campo Verde High School.

One of her colleagues noted in describing Cox, that John Quincy Adams, 6th President of the United States once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader". AASP would like to congratulate Krista Cox, PhD on being our Administrator of the Year for 2020.