*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | March 20, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | 2023 Massachusetts School Counselor of the Year, Andrea Encarnacao – Presentation to Board |

School counselors play an essential role in preparing students to be college- and career-ready and helping meet their social and emotional needs. During the pandemic and beyond, the school counselor’s role has greatly expanded. This spring, we celebrate and honor the work of all school counselors, exemplified by the Massachusetts School Counselor of the Year, Andrea Encarnacao, **school counselor at the Boston Latin School (BLS)**. I am delighted that Ms. Encarnacao will join us at the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting on March 28.

The Massachusetts School Counselor Association (MASCA) selected Ms. Encarnacao **as the 2023** Massachusetts School Counselor of the Year. **She was honored at a school assembly at BLS in January and represented Massachusetts in Washington, D.C. at the National School Counselor of the Year Gala in February 2023.**

**Ms. Encarnacao** was an early pioneer in the design and delivery of BLS's Comprehensive School Counseling Program, through which she implements a comprehensive school counseling program that includes advocacy, leadership, systemic change, and collaboration. She has created notable programs to build and strengthen student-alumni connections, including the BLS Career Day, a platform where graduates provide junior class members with academic and professional advice about life after BLS. Career Day brings hundreds of alums together to discuss their careers and educational paths with the junior class. More than 1,200 BLS alums have participated over the last ten years.

As a school counselor embracing leadership opportunities, **Ms. Encarnacao** is a passionate and skilled professional in all areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. She leads this work in her school by creating teacher professional development, forums, and student advocacy opportunities, while simultaneously developing and organizing anti-racist events in the school and the greater Boston community. She is involved with several interdisciplinary teams at BLS including the IDEAL (Identity, Diversity, Equity, Action, & Love) Team, Peer Mentoring Leadership Team, the Instructional Leadership Team, and the School Site Council.

**Ms. Encarnacao** has worked hard to ensure that all BLS students receive the support they need, and she is known for collaborating and sharing her ideas with colleagues. She is a leader recognized for her ability to meet young people where they are in their lives, her genuine interest in helping everyone be the best versions of themselves, and her drive to improve the educational experience for every student. I know you will enjoy meeting the MASCA 2023 School Counselor of the Year, Andrea Encarnacao.