**2016-2017 Missouri School Social Worker of the Year Award**

**Andrea Boa'z, MSW, ACSW**

**School Social Worker, St. Louis Public Schools**

For the past twenty-three years, Andrea Boa'z has dedicated her career to serving children and families in St. Louis Public Schools and surrounding community. Andrea believes that parents should feel supported, not ashamed of their sufferings, and be engaged as equal partners in their child’s education. Her philosophy is sometimes challenged by barriers that suggest school social workers are not a positive resource; however, she has never given up, and continues to make connections with parents, community leaders, and school staff.

Professionally, she is presently an Executive Board Member with American Federation of Teachers St. Louis, Local 420 and serves as the Vice President of Policy Enforcement. Within her district, she is a department team leader, crisis team leader, and faculty sponsor for National Honor Society and Junior Honor Society.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Webster University and MSW from Washington University. Andrea has been trained in: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Psychological First Aid- Train the Trainer, Response To Intervention (RTI), Emergency Response to Crisis Management, Mental Health and Disasters Training: A Basic Approach for School Personnel, Qualified Mental Health Professional, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (CPI) and Grief Counseling. She has given back to the profession as past SSWAM President, Midwest School Social Work Council Representative, and as a field instructor.

Personally, Andrea is the mother of a 12-year-old daughter, Taylor. Since 1992, Andrea has served as a Girl Scout Leader. She also serves her community as member of several church affiliated organizations.

Andrea embodies the ideals of the profession of school social work as someone who, with humility, creativity, and high standards, strives each day to bring families, communities, and schools together for the betterment of Missouri children.







