

Arkansas Delegate Candidate—Sue Featherston
Personal Statement

My name is Sue Featherston and I am a candidate for the NASP Arkansas Delegate position. I have been a practicing educational examiner since the fall of 1990. Prior to that position, I taught in public school settings as a special education teacher from 1980 to 1990 while obtaining certification for educational examiner. In 2010, I was honored to receive the School Psychology Specialist of the Year award from the Arkansas School Psychology Association. I have never held a state or national level NASP position prior to this election, but would consider it a great privilege to serve as the NASP delegate from Arkansas.

During my thirty years of experience in special education, the identification of primary handicapping conditions has expanded greatly. More and more students are being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, other health impairments, and emotional disturbances. The psychological and mental health issues of these students supersede their academic difficulties. This has created the need for mental health services beyond the capacity of the typical special education department. The role and responsibilities of educational examiner/school psychologist have expanded from evaluating and testing to include counseling, intervention, and student behavior plans.

I am passionate about meeting the needs of the special education student. This includes the student with a specific learning disability as well as the student with emotional disturbance. As a delegate, I would work to ensure the best environment for the student, the best resources and training for the teachers and examiners, and the best support for the parents and guardians.