

## **National School Psychology Week Capitol Hill Advocacy Campaign Timeline of Major Events**

- May 2009** NASP advocacy and communications staff and leaders drafted a federal resolution recognizing the work of school psychologists, the importance of school psychological services, and the need to acknowledge these contributions by officially recognizing National School Psychology Awareness Week as November 9-13, 2009.
- June 2009** NASP advocacy staff and Government and Professional Relations (GPR) leaders visit elected officials on Capitol Hill in search of bipartisan sponsorship for the resolution. Senators Lincoln (D-AR) and Cochran (R-MS) and Representatives Loeb sack (D-IA-2) and Ehlers (R-MI-3) agree to sponsor the resolution. The recommended NASP language for the resolution is adopted.
- July 2009** NASP hosts the 2009 Public Policy Institute and all participants visit their elected officials on Capitol Hill to ask for support for the resolution. More than 100 Congressional office visits were made during the Capitol Hill experience. The House and Senate bipartisan resolutions are introduced. Senate sponsors send a "Dear Colleague" letter to all members requesting that they sign on as co-sponsors of the resolution.
- August 2009** NASP sends out a legislative alert asking NASP members to contact their elected officials through the Advocacy Action Center to ask for their support as a co-sponsor of the House and Senate resolutions. House sponsors send a "Dear Colleague" letter to all members requesting that they sign on as co-sponsors of the resolution.
- October 2009** APA Division 16 disseminates the information from the NASP legislative alert to their members in an effort to illicit additional grassroots advocacy support for the resolution. APA Division 16 and NASP leaders respond to requests by the House Education and Labor Committee for "talking points" and supporting research in support of the House resolution. Senator Lincoln's office agrees to act as the lead sponsor for a congressional briefing to be held during National School Psychology Week.
- November 2009** A congressional briefing is approved and a room for the briefing is assigned in the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center. All original lead sponsors of the resolutions sign on as sponsors including Senator Lincoln, Senator Cochran, Representative Loeb sack and Representative Ehlers. A legislative alert asking NASP members to invite their elected officials to attend the briefing is disseminated. On November 10<sup>th</sup> the briefing is held with a panel including a school psychologist, the principal from an elementary school she serves, a school psychology professor and the NASP Director of Public Policy. The House Resolution passes 431-1 and the Senate Resolution passes unanimously.