Daniel Upchurch—Delegate Candidate (AL)

**What are your qualifications that make you a strong candidate for delegate?**

**What are the most pressing issues in the profession and how would you use your strengths to address these issues as a member of the NASP Leadership Assembly?**

I am currently an assistant professor of psychology at Alabama A&M University, where I currently teach graduate level assessment courses. I am a leader inside the classroom and outside of the classroom. I work extremely hard in my community; advocating for many groups. In addition to my leadership roles as a professor and community activist, I am also a researcher and school psychologist. My areas of research are Autism and Bullying. My dissertation examines bullying and homophobia among collegiate students and I am currently conducting research on the effects of sulforaphane on autistic adults.

These are only a few things that make me a strong candidate. My ultimate goal is to advocate for all students and those who serve students in elementary, middle and high school. As a strong candidate, I bring rich experience in the area of assessment. I make sure that my graduate students are aware of the psychometrics of tests and how to properly administer and interpret these instruments. In addition, I also share with my students the history of tests and the number of tests that were culturally biased until revision were made in the 1970s.

This is significant because I want to prepare my future clinicians for the assessment world, so they will not make errors that could hinder or even destroy a child’s life. With that being said, I am a huge supporter of culturally sound instruments that provides highly reliable and satisfactory valid results. Also, I am a great candidate because I am extremely supportive of the community. I truly believe that the community plays a major role in a child’s life. I believe a leader must be able to provide comfort to those in the community. In addition, a great leader must be able to relate with the community.

I grew up in the city of Mobile, Alabama and I lived in a community where the neighbors worked together in order to survive. If one neighbor was without; another neighbor would step in to assist. If a child misbehaves, all of the neighbors would provide corrective feedback. This cohesive environment taught me how to respect my elders, those that less fortunate and those who were different. I believe that if you truly want to understand a child, go to his community and converse with his or her family and neighbors. The major challenge that many School Psychologists in the state of Alabama face is the sheer number of students and families needing our consultation and our support.

There is not enough school psychologists’ representation in the state of Alabama. In addition, we must diversify and employ more school psychologists who represent the community. We need more Hispanics and African Americans employed. All of the areas I have mentioned make me a well qualified individual to serve as a delegate of Alabama. I will be extremely committed to helping and advocating for all. Thank you for your support and take care.