CHARITY MEANS-BURDESS  
State Delegate Candidate: Arkansas  

Statement 2

NASP leaders recently adopted the 2020 Professional Standards that serve as a guide for professional practice and ethics. What do you see as the role of the NASP delegate in promoting these standards? Provide examples of what you will do.

Part of being an effective leader (and decent person in general) is taking responsibility for your actions. I missed several pieces of important correspondence about the NASP Delegate elections… apparently group emails are filtered out in my email settings. I missed a deadline for responding to the first Delegate question. I take my responsibilities as a leader for ASPA and NASP very seriously and humbly apologize for this oversight.

Since I missed the first opportunity to introduce myself, I will briefly do so now. I have worked for Rogers Public Schools for more than 20 years. My current position is Lead School Psychologist and Special Education Consultant. I have worked with students from preschool through high school. I am the proud parent of three boys, who are now in middle school, high school, and college. My husband, a high school teacher, and I have recently celebrated our 28th anniversary.

I have been involved with the Arkansas School Psychology Association in different capacities since serving as a Student Representative in graduate school. My positions in ASPA have included Regional Representative, Publications Chairperson, and President.

NASP has recently updated the Professional Standards. I believe that it is critical for all NASP members to be informed about our new Practice Standards. The NASP Delegate has an important role in helping align state and national standards. Under more typical circumstances, the NASP Delegate would promote standards at the state conference and during the ASPA board meetings. I will continue to work with the ASPA board to include the ideas and language in the new national standards in our state planning including providing meaningful PD that allows the SPs in Arkansas to be able to provide a full range of psychological services while supporting them in their current roles.

To be able to provide a wider range of services, we must continue to advocate for a ratio that is closer to the NASP recommended ratio of 1:500. ASPA leaders are continuing to advocate for a better ratio within in the state and for our credentials to be more aligned with national standards. Even if we are able to obtain a better ratio, there are simply not enough School Psychologists for all of the open positions in the state. Despite advocacy efforts, we continue to be a hidden profession and we ALL need to recruit for the field. The NASP Exposure Project is an easy way to speak to high school or college students. I used this information to speak with a local high school psychology class last year and plan to do so again this year. It will take all of us to advocate for expanded roles and increased ratios. I will continue to work with local, state, and national educators to advocate for these things. I hope to do so as your NASP Delegate during the next three years.