SAMARA WAY
State Delegate Candidate: Arizona

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.

NASP delegates serve a critical role in promoting the organization's vision, strategic goals, and professional standards to the school psychologists we represent as well as other stakeholders and decision-makers. Our schools and communities are faced with educator shortages, increased mental and behavioral health needs of children and financial constraints all of which are exacerbated by the unprecedented circumstances of a global pandemic. Promoting the 2020 Professional Standards, particularly the Practice Model, is a timely and important task to increase understanding of how school psychologists are uniquely capable to address contemporary educational challenges. The Professional Standards provide guidance to practitioners, school districts, training programs and state education agencies about graduate preparation, credentialing and professional and ethical practice. The Professional Standards are an important tool for use in advocacy efforts not only on behalf of the children and families we serve, but for the working conditions that are essential for successful and sustained practice.

NASP has developed excellent resources that are informative, accessible and easy to disseminate to a variety of audiences. Delegates have the privilege and responsibility to be the conduits for information at state and local levels. In Arizona, the NASP delegate is an ex-officio member of the state school psychological association’s executive board which offers opportunities to share information with state leaders and practitioners. In addition to providing NASP updates at the executive board’s quarterly meetings, the delegate typically gives a lengthier presentation at some point during the year, often at the summer retreat. As the current NASP delegate, I’ve been participating in the NASP Practice Model Push Project through monthly delegate messages and social media. I have also provided presentations to graduate students. Future activities may include an overview at the association’s annual meeting, newsletter articles and additional presentations to stakeholder groups.