APRIL TURNER  
State Delegate Candidate: Maryland  
*Statement 1*

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

It has been an honor to serve as the Maryland Delegate for the 2017-2020 term. When I was elected in 2017, I committed to facilitating state-wide collaboration, strengthening the leadership development of Maryland School Psychologists, and advocating with state and national stakeholders to address school psychologists concerns. While the work in these areas is not done, I am proud of the progress Maryland school psychologists have made and look forward to continuing the work during my second term as NASP delegate.

During my first term, I connected with school psychologists across the state to better understand their needs, strengths, and concerns. I presented and discussed NASP updates and initiatives with school psychologists in over 10 Maryland counties. These face to face interactions granted me the opportunity to answer questions and work to develop ways for cross-county collaboration. Building on the goal of collaboration, I attended several state-wide meetings with the Maryland State Department of Education and the school psychology supervisors to share NASP information and advocate for the concerns of Maryland school psychologists.

To strengthen the connection between NASP and MSPA, I redesigned the monthly NASP delegate message to highlight events and updates at the local, state, and national level. I also facilitated several ‘big topic’ discussions at the MSPA board meetings including school psychology shortages and social justice. Furthermore, as the chair of the MSPA diversity committee, I facilitated state-wide diversity dialogues focusing on creating an inclusive space for conversations related to NASP best practices for diversity, equity, and social justice in schools.

At the national level, I advocated for increased school psychologist diversity at regional leadership trainings and prided myself on being vocal about issues of equity and social justice at Leadership Assembly. I encouraged Maryland school psychologists to attend NASP and participate in the regional leadership trainings. I worked hard to highlight and showcase the talent of Maryland school psychologists, nominating over 10 Maryland school psychologists for NASP committees and national awards including the NASP early career spotlight, the NASP Certificate of Appreciation and NASP outstanding advocate. In 2019, Maryland school psychologists and advocates were awarded 5 NASP awards and I was awarded the NASP Rookie of the Year Award for my outstanding initiative as a new NASP leader.

In my second term, I hope to continue to address school psychology shortages, strengthen leadership development, engage in state-wide collaboration, and promote social justice practices. Accordingly, I aim to develop resources and strategies to address school psychology shortages in Maryland through school-district presentations and collaboration with University programs. In the area of leadership development, I hope to connect emerging state leaders with NASP resources, trainings, and mentorship. In the area of diversity and social justice, I aspire to strengthen the skills of Maryland school psychologist to facilitate, engage and advocate for conversations about
equity and race. I look forward to accomplishing these goals and continuing to advocate for the needs of Maryland school psychologists in my second term as the Maryland NASP delegate.