

## **RACHELE TESON**

**State Delegate Candidate: Missouri**

*Statement 1*

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

I am passionate about the field of school psychology! Ever since learning about the field in my senior year of undergraduate work, I was hooked. Now, as an early career school psychologist, I know that I'm in the right place. School psychology is my passion, my mission, and my purpose. I'm hopeful that the fire I have to help make change at the systems level will help to better support all students. This energy that I have to bring to the important work in our field I believe makes me a strong candidate for Missouri Delegate.

I have been a member of the Missouri Association of School Psychologists (MASP) and NASP since 2015. I served as a conference committee member of MASP and secretary and student government association representative of our student organization during graduate school. I then moved into the role of committee chair for the MASP Outreach/Practice Model/Mental Health committee.

Although I am an early career practitioner, I have had the experience of serving in both a behavior consultation model of school psychology and a more traditional role in addition to serving large and small school districts. I believe this has helped me to become a more well-rounded and effective school psychologist. I loved the opportunities to work within so many areas of our practice model, particularly in the areas related to mental and behavioral health.

### **What is the most pressing issue in your state? As NASP Delegate, how do you see your role in working with your state association to address this issue?**

In the summer of 2021, I was asked to consider taking on the Missouri Delegate role for NASP and once I learned more about it from my predecessor, I knew it would be an opportunity for professional growth. I have deeply enjoyed learning about the NASP structure, opportunities for advocacy, and getting a chance to learn from and work with so many amazing volunteer leaders in my short time in this role. I would be honored to continue serving in this role and continue to be the liaison between NASP and our state association. As a school psychologist in Missouri, I am very aware of our state's needs, which involve workforce shortages and high ratios. My goal is to continue efforts at all levels to demonstrate to the "show me state" how school psychologists are here to help!