

COURTNEY HUGUENIN

State Delegate Candidate: New York

Statement 1

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

Being a school psychologist practitioner is a source of pride and has become a part of my identity. I have lived and worked in rural, suburban, and urban settings across New York and developed an appreciation of the unique challenges faced in each geographical region, which I will reflect on if elected NASP Delegate. Formerly a special education teacher in NYC, after earning my specialist level degree seven years ago, I landed my dream job as a school psychologist on Long Island. Throughout my 15+ years in education, there have been two constants: embracing challenges and amplifying victories, both professionally and personally. In the midst of graduate training, my life was upended when I was diagnosed with cancer. Despite the shock, my heart remained focused on my studies throughout treatment and my fight fueled my passion for advocacy, which I believe is the foundation of the NASP Delegate role. This tenacity extended to professional advocacy in my role as a school psychologist in supporting students, families, and communities, in advocating for my role through best practices, as well as advocating for the field of school psychology through policy. In addition to being a practitioner, I have been a member of the New York Association of School Psychologists (NYASP) board since 2016, first as a Chapter Representative, then Secretary, and now Public Relations Chair and Conference 2022 Co-Chair. Through these roles, I further developed my skills in communication, dependability, flexibility, organization, and self-reflection. At the national level while representing New York, I participated in NASP's Leadership Institute, Public Policy Institute, and Regional Leadership Meetings. Whether a graduate student, practitioner, or trainer, you can count on me to represent the issues that are important to you at the national level.

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?

The diversity of New York lends itself to varying issues across the state; however, the most pressing issue is common: Access to mental health services is limited. This is evidenced by school psychology positions remaining open for years in rural school districts and by the extensive waitlists of outside providers. As NASP Delegate, I will work closely with the NYASP board to continue their already established advocacy work towards addressing this issue, focused on licensure of masters level school psychologists. Licensure will allow masters level school psychologists to bill Medicaid for eligible students in the schools and practice in the community setting. I will support this initiative by highlighting key NASP resources that will be effective in achieving this goal, such as the usage of the NASP Practice Model. As a current member of the NASP Communications Committee, I have knowledge in preparing resources and using social media to develop advocacy campaigns to promote change. In addition, I have presented at the NYSSBA Convention and the NYASP Conference on demystifying the role of the school psychologist. As NYASP PR Chair, I have developed relationships with partner associations in NYS, legislators, and within NYSED, that would make my transition to NASP Delegate seamless and allow me to go to work for you immediately.