

PETER FAUSTINO

President-Elect Candidate

Statement 2

NASP Leaders have adopted five strategic goals that guide the association's work. Please describe what you see as the NASP President's role in promoting these goals.

President of NASP sounds like the most important role within our association. And while it is an incredible honor, as President my charge (as detailed in our Operations Handbook) would be to “work closely with NASP volunteer leaders and staff members to achieve the goals of the association.” This highlights a basic tenet of mine that together we can achieve great things.

I saw a quote recently that stated, “To inspire people, don’t show them your super powers show them theirs!” Advancing the strategic goals of NASP is a collective effort. It has to be. We are setting out to change systems ingrained within our school communities across the nation. The mental health crisis, the shortage of school psychologists, a paucity of resources in too many communities, and the lack of equitable practices in schools are untenable. The NASP President will need to inspire others in pursuit of our association’s work. Literally, because children’s lives and well-being are at stake.

The good news is that our NASP Leadership Assembly (Delegates, Strategic Liaisons, Committee Chairs and State Association Presidents) are some of the most passionate school psychologists I have met. In fact, actions toward addressing a national Shortage of School Psychologists, expanding Leadership Development, highlighting School Psychologists as Mental and Behavioral Health Providers, uniformity within our profession through the Practice Model and the all-encompassing Social Justice goal are well underway. For me, being part of NASP’s Leadership Assembly has served as a vehicle for taking action.

My current role on the Board of Directors has been part of a strong collaborative to advance all five of these goals. I have worked closely with both staff and leaders to turn ideas into action. Too often, when groups are faced with the challenge to change they admire the problem. COVID has presented us with a unique opportunity to rethink our local, state and national practices... and do better!

As NASP President, I will inspire others to move the needle even further. NASP is already working to set goals, strategically plan for action, evaluate progress and think creatively. Efforts like model legislation for state leaders to use in state advocacy efforts, or the Creating Connections Initiative focused on key stakeholders within the state who are sympathetic to our mission, or supporting graduate students through our “Second Chance” training opportunities are just a few examples of the types of steps that will continue to elevate the profession.

I have a record of amplifying the voices of others, such that critical conversations turn into possibilities. Over the past decade, I have worked tirelessly alongside members as an advocate for children’s issues. I hope that many of you have attended NASP’s Public Policy Institute, stopped by the Advocacy Action Center booth at Convention,

called or sent emails to legislators, or maybe even snapped a picture with NASP Gumby. These are just some activities during my role at NASP that have been spent energizing others.

Gaining confidence as a national leader fueled my interest in partnering with allies. As New York Delegate and Northeast Regional Representative, I have forged connections with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, The Trevor Project, Bring Change 2 Mind, various non-profits focused on Autism, the Child Mind Institute, the New York State School Boards Association, and countless other stakeholders who all share our mission for helping children thrive. As NASP President, I can promulgate our strategic goals by building relationships with others who are willing to invest in change. And with strong partnerships there is so much more that can be done to intervene and build equitable programs across the country.

Relationships are important and something that is at the very heart of my role as a Delegate. Whether working with state associations, private charities, state and national legislators, allied professions, colleges/universities or simply practitioners of school psychology... I have always aimed my efforts at inclusivity.

So join me; not only by voting for me as NASP President, but by contacting me with your ideas, your passion and your stories so that we can inspire others to follow our lead. Because what we need is leadership and advocacy on behalf of those who are unable to speak up for themselves.

School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections among home, school, and the community. It's what we do! And given the chance I will ensure this at a national level. Together We Can.