

BETH HOWELL

State Delegate Candidate: South Carolina

Statement 1

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

I have many qualifications that would make me a strong candidate to represent South Carolina. I first started on the SCASP board by serving as the Piedmont representative in 2012. I was elected to the Secretary role from 2013-2014. I then ran for and was elected President-Elect for SCASP in 2014. This was a 2-year term that led into my 2-year Presidency from 2016-2018, followed by the 2-year term Past-President. I am the current Programs Chair for SCASP. My involvement with the SCASP Board has given me opportunities to meet many school psychologists in the state. I have been able to hear about successes, needs and concerns from all over the state. I have lived and worked as a school psychologist in districts throughout the state, which has allowed me to not only hear from other school psychologists but experience a variety of settings in the state.

Because of my involvement with SCASP, I have had opportunities to be involved with NASP. I was part of the 3 member SCASP team to collaborate with NASP consultants and staff about advocacy goals in South Carolina. I attended NASP's Public Policy Institute during the summer of 2016, which gave me even more knowledge and experience about how to advocate for our profession and the students we serve. I have attended many NASP Regional Leadership Meetings the past 7 years, allowing me to interact and network with school psychologists, NASP staff, and leaders from all over the country. I was part of two South Carolina State Department of Education workgroups in 2017 and 2018 (both continued into 2019) that involved working on the Special Education eligibility criteria and helping develop the School-Based Threat Assessment guide/protocol that was released in February 2019.

Through these experiences, I have formed relationships with school psychologists and stakeholders throughout South Carolina and throughout the country. I feel that I can bring a wealth of knowledge about our state's successes and needs to the delegate assembly, so that I can bring back relevant information to all of the school psychologists in our state.

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?

Right now, the most pressing issue in South Carolina, in regards to School Psychology, is the shortage of school psychologist positions in the state and having highly qualified school psychologists to fill those positions. Districts do not always embrace all the skills that school psychologists possess and utilize them accordingly. As NASP Delegate I will continue to highlight the Practice Model and the 10 Domains of Practice. If school psychologists can become confident in their own diverse skills, districts can see the value of having more school psychologists, hopefully bringing the ratios in our state closer to the 1 to 500 students recommendation (as compared to current state average of 1 to 1413 students). I plan to continue the relationship between the NASP Delegate and the SCASP

board that has already been developed. Continuing to share information and brainstorm with state leaders will be a major focus for me.