

CURTIS MIDDLETON
State Delegate Candidate: Puerto Rico
Statement 1

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

The qualifications I possess in the areas of leadership and collaboration make me a strong candidate for the position of NASP Delegate. I have served in several leadership roles in the South Dakota Association of School Psychologists (SDASP) including regional representative, president elect and president of the organization. I am starting my 23rd year as a school psychologist, serving students in South Dakota and Texas. Within my district, I have served on numerous committees related to special education, dyslexia, autism, response to intervention, and suicide prevention. In addition to these school-based activities, I was also awarded the Making the Difference award presented by the Autism Society of the Black Hills in 2014.

I have been a NASP member since graduate school and believe this organization helps strengthen our profession while providing valuable resources to school psychologists throughout their careers.

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 most pressing issue in South Dakota, in my opinion, is expanding our role as school psychologists to mirror the practice domains outlined by NASP. While many opportunities exist to serve our districts in a variety of capacities, many districts do not have adequate staff or caseloads are too high, which prevents school psychologists from engaging in activities which could ultimately impact larger groups of students. Many psychologists in South Dakota continue to operate in a “test and place” model. They typically work with one student at a time after significant academic and/or behavioral deficiencies have already developed. By following the NASP practice model more closely, school psychologists could impact students on a grander scale by being active participants with systems level change, classroom or individual consultation, or by providing mental health services. These activities would impact how school psychologists are perceived throughout the state while possibly attracting more students to the profession.

As a NASP Delegate, this could be achieved by working with SDASP to target areas for incremental growth with a defined focus each year. Once a specific domain is identified as a theme for a particular year, we could then increase awareness by specifically recruiting speakers at our annual conference that build capacity in that area.