

ASHLEY ARNOLD
State Delegate Candidate: Texas
Statement 1

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

I LOVE school psychology. School psychology is my passion. I want to make every school psychologist as excited about school psychology as I am.

This is my 19th year to practice as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology and Nationally Certified School Psychologist. I have served on the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP) Executive Board in a variety of roles from starting out as Graduate Student Representative to ultimately President. I was actively involved with NASP leadership as TASP fought to maintain the use of the NCSP credential with TSBEP in 2010. In 2013, I was TASP's representative on TSBEP's Supervision Rules Advisory Committee that overhauled the entire set of supervision rules. I was actively involved in the passage of the first bill TASP ever passed in the Legislature regarding a seat on TSBEP. Finally, I was part of the group that created the LSSP Evaluation Tool.

I am also actively involved in serving NASP. I am currently the Co-Chair for the Assistance to States Committee, a member of the National & State Credentialing Committee, as well as the State Credentialing Specialist for Texas. I was a Local Arrangements Co-Chair for the 2017 National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention in San Antonio. I have been a Program Reviewer for the Program Approval Board since February 2016, even though I am not a faculty member. I was a guest reviewer of selected chapters for Best Practices in School Psychology, Sixth Edition. I am a PREPaRE 3rd Edition Trainer and have presented both Workshop 1 and 2 numerous times to school districts and Regional Education Service Centers across the state of Texas. My passion and advocacy for the profession at the systems level is evident by my receipt of the TASP 2017 Outstanding Service to the Profession of School Psychology award, and more importantly, my school district was the recipient of the TASP 2017 Outstanding Delivery of School Psychological Services.

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 the state of Texas is the umbrella issue of shortages, which has a domino effect on the delivery of school psychological services, particularly on the mental health needs of our students. The shortages issue gripes our state, from the rural, underserved areas of Texas to our suburban metro areas, and not just in our schools but also in our graduate programs. As Delegate, I see my role in working with TASP as a conduit to provide resources and technical assistance to addressing the shortage, which won't go away any time soon. Hopefully, during my first term as Delegate, you have seen that I have been responsive to your needs and results oriented. You have my promise I will work every day for you to address the unique impact the shortage may have on your specific role to help alleviate the mental health crisis that is overwhelming Texas.