

**BROOK ROBERTS**  
**State Delegate Candidate: Texas**  
*Statement 2*

**NASP Leaders have adopted five strategic goals that guide the association's work. In your state, what are some gains being made in school psychology practice related to these goals, and what are some pressing challenges?**

A number of years ago, when NASP established the current five strategic goals, TASP began attempting to address these areas from the Texas lens. Our state association has made many great strides to that end. For example, the TASP board, within the past two years, established a Social Justice Committee to bring an increased awareness to the unique issues and life experiences that not only our school psychologists who are from minoritized backgrounds bring to the table, but also how our practice with children, educators, and families from a minoritized background must be culturally competent, inclusive, and equitable. Likewise, the association developed a workforce shortage task force and has made considerable headway in the State legislature to have bills proposed that would address the shortage in a meaningful way.

For the upcoming year, 2022, related to these two priorities, TASP has been discussing launching a statewide, public awareness campaign, by leveraging our social media resources through advertising purchases, in order to 1) bring public awareness to the field; 2) improve workforce diversity; 3) highlight the many services that school psychologists can provide through their training in Texas; and 4) educate stakeholders with advocacy strategies.

However, we still have areas that need to see progress being made. For example, much of the committee work that goes on within the association is composed of board members who have been in leadership positions within the association for multiple years. We have not yet developed a leadership pipeline and do not have an avenue to expand membership involvement. Having said that, though, the 2021 officer election has positions with multiple candidates for the first time in a number of years, indicating some momentum for leader expansion.

Another area to focus upon, and as has been documented in several research and newsletter articles for over 25 years, is the ongoing issue surrounding critical shortages of school psychologists. Not only are we experiencing this problem in our field, but also in education as a whole. And, until we make significant headway to improve this problem, we should not expect our school systems to embrace us as comprehensive mental and behavioral health service providers or support adoption of the comprehensive practice model. Yes, there is a visibility and awareness problem, but related to this, it is likely that our graduate programs do not have capacity to admit additional students based upon the lack of qualified faculty positions.

I recognize and realize these pressing challenges will likely persist for a few years into the future, however, it is my intent to continue to assist the association to not only address these problems, but to develop processes and mechanisms to enact change, improve conditions, and monitor advancement through data collection. Thank you for considering me as a choice for Texas Delegate.