

## **JO CALLAGHAN**

**State Delegate Candidate: Washington**

*Statement 2*

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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?

1. Ensure availability of a high quality school psychology workforce by addressing shortages. Washington's university programs continue to grow and increase student graduation and placement in positions in school districts. School districts located near universities are active in providing practicum and internship experiences for psychologists in training. Universities are also working with students who are seeking or are willing to provide services in more remote or rural districts. Faculty at several of the university programs are also working professionals who bring the experience to the classroom to prepare graduates for the real work world. The state school psychology association (WSASP) is also committed to supporting new professionals with annual conferences in the Fall and Summer each year as well supporting less scholarships to universities to support student finances.
2. Advance the role of school psychologists as qualified mental and behavioral health providers. The Board of the WSASP has established a subcommittee on the role of the school psychologist in mental and behavioral health. Recent WSASP conferences have had a strand of workshops that focused on the role of mental and behavioral health for school psychs. Recent collaboration with other school based mental and behavioral health providers has resulted in a beginning interdisciplinary understanding of our shared expertise and interests. The coalition also recognizes the importance of all professionals being available to our children to support sound practices in mental health.
3. Advance recognition and implementation of the NASP Practice Model nationwide. Several districts in Washington state including the district where I work support and staff according to the NASP Practice Model. Washington recently passed legislation that calls for the implementation of a comprehensive counseling program and we are working to wrap the NASP Practice Model into this legislative requirement. The very evident concern about racism and bias in past practices involving standardized testing also places urgency on continuing to examine all domains of practice and ensuring that our profession rises to the standards of cultural responsiveness and anti-racist work.

4. Develop leadership skills and qualities of school psychologists. As a school psychologist supervisor in my neighborhood school district and university trainer of school psychologists, it is imperative that we continue to grow in leadership skills. Emphasis on sound practices for consultation, evidence based interventions, data informed decision making and ethical foundational beliefs will lead our professional to working for social justice for all children. Education is our greatest asset as a society and it is more evident now than ever that we must meet students where they are and help them grow into responsible citizens.
5. Uphold that all children and youth are valued and that their rights and opportunities are protected in schools and communities.