

**CONRAE LUCAS-ADKINS**  
**State Delegate Candidate: West Virginia**  
*Statement 1*

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

Continuing to serve as West Virginia's NASP Delegate would be a privilege with responsibilities that I would work hard to fulfill. School psychology is a profession that has allowed me to shape the growth and development of WV youth in positive ways, and I want to be in a position to influence policies and practices that will support my colleagues and future practitioners in having similar impacts. The mission of a NASP Delegate is to "represent and support school psychology through leadership to enhance the mental health and educational competence of all children," and I am strongly aligned with this mission.

I am committed to the field of school psychology as evidenced by 14 years of full-time employment as a school psychologist in WV schools and 5 years as a full-time trainer of school psychologists at the university level. In addition to my faculty position at Marshall University, I continue to provide consultation and direct services as a school psychologist on a contractual basis within our state and across the Appalachian region; I value this time spent with youth, families, and educators. Through many of these experiences, I have been able to model the role of a school psychologist as a data-based decision maker and ethical problem-solver. Promoting the NASP Practice Model through education and implementation is my delegate platform.

During my first term as WV delegate, I set a goal to strengthen my leadership and advocacy skills in order to better serve the school psychologists in our state. Steps I have taken to achieve this goal include: completing the NASP Leadership Institute, providing trainings on the NASP Practice Model, and participating in cross-disciplinary efforts to build the capacities of schools for supporting youth affected by adversities.

**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?**

If elected for a second term as WV's NASP Delegate, I will maintain communication with WVSPA to ensure that I stay current with issues across our state, permitting me to appropriately represent WV, voice our positions, and advocate for us on a national level. One of our ongoing challenges is the recruitment and retention of school psychologists. Our association has made excellent strides in broadening districts' understanding of the services school psychologists can provide, resulting in several added positions across the state, yet many of these positions remain vacant. I want to work closely with our association, state legislators, and the WV Department of Education to have the EdS credentials recognized in the salary scale. I will continue recruitment for the school psychology profession by sharing materials with WV colleges, universities, and high schools. I will remain knowledgeable of the valuable work completed within our association and by the school psychologists in WV, because I want to showcase WV on a national level. I respect the incredible contributions and efforts of WV school psychologists, and I believe that while we can learn from others, others can also learn from us.