TIFFANI A. FARROW  
State Delegate Candidate: Illinois

Statement 1

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

To be led by passion is to be led by the cornerstone of what encompasses a strong candidate for NASP Delegate. I've committed 20 years of groundwork advocating in sectors of education, health, and social justice as a Teacher, School Leader, and for the last 5 years, a School Psychologist. My years in Illinois reflect service in the largest school district in the state and the third largest school district in the nation. As I continue to serve in underfunded and inequitable communities, continuous elevation and growth are my professional and personal drivers. I seek the opportunity to represent NASP members, collaborate with stakeholders, and promote policies and practices among the Association and the public. I understand NASP's Delegate mission to “represent and support school psychology through leadership to enhance the mental health and educational competence of all children” and I shall duly accept this mission with the same intense passion that has guided me this possibility. NASP has noted perhaps the most important tool and skill one must possess to be an effective Delegate is communication, “communication is an essential tool to be utilized by all leaders and professional staff members involved in the Association’s efforts”. I recognize the power of my voice is necessary to work with all and fulfill the daily duties and responsibilities of Delegate. I believe the power of my voice is synonymous with the power of OUR voices as I represent the body. I am a change agent fueled with a genuine desire to ensure School Psychologists are at the forefront of every conversation, by every elected official at the local, regional, and national levels with a swift call to action addressing issues aligned with NASP’s Strategic Plan. I’ve picketed for just wages for School Psychologists working in school districts in Illinois, stood on the steps of the Illinois State Capitol championing fair funding in public schools, publicly spoken against disproportionality in special education, and formally presented regarding critical workforce shortages in School Psychology through NASP’s Exposure Project while simultaneously addressing diversity in School Psychology.

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?

School Psychologists are mental and behavioral health professionals. In 2022, a complete understanding of how School Psychologists impact systems remain unfamiliar in many spaces. At this moment, the most pressing issue in my state is aligning practices in Illinois with the NASP Practice Model. This is priority area number one with the state association, ISPA. Playing an integral role in ensuring the NASP service delivery model guides School Psychologists in school settings is vital to the well-being of all children. I would be the liaison to continue to strengthen the relationship between NASP and ISPA. Therefore, providing resources, visibility, guidance, and ongoing collaboration will further the facilitation and implementation of ISPA's priorities. Lastly, aligning practices in the state with NASP’s service delivery model must have a solid foundation in social justice as School Psychologists commit to the scope of psychological services.