MARY MACLENNAN  
State Delegate Candidate: Maine  

Statement 1

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

I have a long history of serving Maine schools and the Maine Association of School Psychologists. I believe the breadth and depth of my experience with school psychology in Maine uniquely qualifies me to represent our state at the national level. I have lived and worked in Maine since 1986, serving in the public school system since 1987. I have been an active member of MASP since 2003 including serving as Professional Development Chair, Secretary, and President. These experiences have given me the opportunity to meet and work with school psychologists from across the state and to develop an in-depth understanding of school psychology in Maine.

I have continued to participate in many NASP programs that have been offered over the years including Regional Leadership Meetings, Public Policy Institute, and the Assistance to States trainings that have been provided. Through these experiences I have developed a strong appreciation for the valuable resources NASP provides to our profession as a whole and to school psychologists here in Maine.

I see my role as Maine's NASP delegate to be a bridge between our state and the national organization. This includes sharing the needs, values, experiences, concerns and goals of Maine school psychologists in order to support the work of NASP. Also, bringing the knowledge, resources, and skills of NASP home to support school psychology in Maine. I believe my extensive experience as a school psychologist in Maine schools along with my leadership roles for MASP and my current position and relationship with NASP place me in the position to effectively build this bridge.

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?

As with many other states, Maine is facing a critical shortage of school psychologists, while there is an increased demand for mental health services in schools. I see this as the most pressing issue in Maine. As the NASP Delegate, I look forward to collaborating with other states to gather information from other representatives and how they are dealing with shortages, while providing the services that their students desperately need. Of special concern is the fact that our northern, rural areas are especially hard hit by this shortage. I am hoping to continue to gain information and ideas from NASP and other state representatives as to how to mitigate the impact to students and their learning as a result of these shortages. I will share any information that I gather with the state association and other key stakeholders, such as the Department of Education, University representatives, and the Directors of Special Education in order to get students what they need to be successful, happy, and healthy individuals.