RACHEL MITCHELL  
State Delegate Candidate: Mississippi  
Statement 2

The NASP Leadership Assembly has adopted three 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?

I believe the strategic goal of addressing workforce shortages is the biggest challenge for Mississippi at this time. Mississippi currently has a lower number of School Psychologists compared to many other states. Without addressing this, the other goals are irrelevant. We cannot tackle much needed Social Justice or implement the NASP Model without a qualified workforce. Goals for my state continue to be recruitment and retaining highly qualified School Psychologists. The Mississippi Department of Education does not currently provide incentive for NCSP as it does for other education fields with National certification. I believe addressing this could help in recruiting and retaining more professionals to our state.