President of NASP sounds like the most important role within our association. And while it is an honor, as President I’m simply a steward of the Association (as detailed in our Operations Handbook) responsible to “work closely with NASP volunteer leaders and staff members.” My current role on the Board of Directors has been part of a strong collaborative to advance all three of our goals and turn ideas into action.

I saw a quote recently that stated, “To inspire people, don’t show them your super power but show them theirs!” Advancing the strategic goals of NASP is a collective effort. It has to be. We are setting out to change systems ingrained within our school communities across the nation. The mental health crisis, the shortage of school psychologists, a paucity of resources in too many communities, and the lack of equitable practices in schools are untenable. The NASP President will need to inspire others in pursuit of our association’s work. Literally, because children’s lives and well-being are at stake.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, NASP has become one of the leading voices in children’s mental health. Our profile has been raised and is leading to efforts like the Interstate Compact, which represents an enormous milestone to improve licensure portability and in turn enable greater access to services. NASP’s position of influence will be critical for the future Reauthorization of IDEA as well. Being at the table to represent school psychologists, children and school communities will address the challenges our members face daily. COVID has presented us with a unique opportunity to rethink our local, state and national practices... and do better!

As NASP President, I can inspire others not just locally but nationally to move the needle even further. NASP is already working to set goals, strategically plan for action, evaluate progress and think creatively. Efforts like model legislation for state leaders to use in state advocacy efforts, supporting graduate students through leadership and training opportunities, or a website redesign with greater resources for members are just a few examples of the types of steps that will continue to enhance the field.

I have a record of amplifying the voices of others, such that critical conversations turn into possibilities. Over the past decade, I have worked tirelessly alongside members as an advocate for children’s issues. I hope that many of you have attended NASP’s Public Policy Institute, stopped by the Advocacy Action Center booth at Convention, called or sent emails to legislators, or maybe even snapped a picture with NASP Gumby. These are just some activities you have seen me do at NASP that have been spent energizing others.

Gaining confidence as a national leader sparked my interest in partnering with allies. As New York Delegate and Northeast Regional Representative, I have forged connections with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, The Trevor Project, Bring Change 2 Mind, various non-profits focused on Autism, the Child Mind...
Institute, the New York State School Boards Association, and countless other stakeholders who all share our mission for helping children thrive. As NASP President, I can promulgate our strategic goals by building relationships with others who are willing to invest in change. And with strong partnerships there is so much more that can be done to intervene and build equitable programs across the country.

Relationships are important and something that will be at the very heart of my role as NASP President. Whether working with state associations, private charities, state and national legislators, allied professions, colleges/universities or personally with practitioners of school psychology… I have always aimed my efforts at inclusivity. And given the future of education, we must push harder to create more inclusive environments not only in school settings but within our association.

Fortunately, your NASP Leadership Assembly (Delegates, Strategic Liaisons, Committee Chairs and State Association Presidents) are some of the most passionate professionals I have met. In fact, actions toward addressing the national Shortage of School Psychologists, uniformity within our profession through the Practice Model and the all-encompassing Social Justice goal are all well underway.

So please join me; not only by voting for me as your next NASP President, but by contacting me with your ideas, your passion and your stories so that we can inspire others to follow our lead. Being part of NASP's leadership as President will serve as a vehicle for advancing actions. And given the chance I will ensure this at a national level. Together we can create something that changes everything.