If elected NASP Secretary, how would you support NASP’s strategic priorities?

As the current NASP Secretary, I was pleased to contribute to the creation of the three strategic goals recently adopted for the NASP Five-year Strategic Plan. The creation of the Strategic Plan involved almost two years of work by both the Board of Directors and by the Leadership Assembly. These three strategic goals are top-of-mind during all Board discussions and decisions, and they inform the overall actions of the entire association. Therefore, the Board of Directors spends a great deal of time engaging with the goals. In fact, each strategic goal is assigned specific Strategic Liaisons (appointed leaders) and Delegate Representatives (elected leaders) to monitor and analyze the progress. With the help of key NASP personnel, who are experienced school psychologists themselves, each team works to create action plans and evaluation plans for advancing their assigned priority. I was highly involved in one strategic goal team during my three years as Delegate Representative; and, as Secretary, I have the privilege of participating and contributing across multiple teams in the past three years. As such, I am able to deeply understand the key tenets of each priority, which then allows me to share the priorities with other NASP members and take action both nationally and locally to move the priorities forward.

For example, my Board-level engagement with the priorities informed my testimony at legislative hearings to increase funding for mental health services in the schools and to recognize school psychologists as mental and behavioral health providers in my state. Similarly, it improved my ability to advocate for elements of the NASP Practice Model to my own district’s school board to increase funding to hire more school psychologists. My knowledge of the priorities also allowed me to better collaborate with my state’s school psychology graduate programs on ways to increase the total number of graduates and to encourage them to stay in-state after graduation as a way to address the workforce shortages that are so dramatic in Western states. Similarly, my participation in Leadership Assembly and on the Board of Directors has deepened my understanding of the school psychologist’s role as a leader and advocate for social justice and the local, state, and national level. This on-going learning has improved my ability to advocate for school-wide initiatives that seek to dismantle the institutional racism that pervades educational structures, curricula, and teaching practices. It has also improved my provisions of local professional development about meeting the needs of emerging multi-lingual students or about understanding the intersectionality of culture, language, and disability.

I strongly believe in the three strategic goals that we have set for our association’s next five years. If re-elected Secretary, my continued service on the NASP Board of Directors will further support and promote the strategic priorities across multiple audiences.