BROOKE SOUPENNE
State Delegate Candidate: Wisconsin

Statement 1

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

This is currently my 14th year practicing in the field of school psychology. I am passionate about serving the students and families in Milwaukee, WI. In this role I have served as a Spanish speaking school psychologist and mentor. In addition to traditional school psychology roles I have also been able to focus on one of my passions in the field anti-racist social justice work working with a team of school psychologist to engage in and create professional development opportunities within district but also across Wisconsin. At the state level I have served on the WSPA executive board as the Secretary for 4 years. This role has provided me with the knowledge of what many school psychologists face across the state of Wisconsin. In this role I have also been a part of an exciting opportunity to help facilitate the creation of the Social Justice committee. In all of these roles I enjoy advocating, consulting, collaborating, and engaging in problem solving to ensure that the school psychologist is seen as an asset to any district. Not only in their ability to evaluate students, but also to engage and execute a variety of mental health services, data-based decision making for various programs, and systems level problem solving.

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?

I believe the two most pressing issues in the state of Wisconsin relating to the field of school psychology are workforce shortages and issues pertaining to racial equity and social justice. Both of these issues are leaving school districts, children, and families underserved in Wisconsin. First, social justice issues are leaving multiple groups of students without the proper academic and social emotional support in place to ensure they feel welcome. Students are being left behind due to systems which are structured to maintain the status quo. As a NASP Delegate I am dedicated to work for racial equity and social justice issues at the national, state, and local levels to ensure all students and families have a voice at the table. Secondly, workforce shortages cause many psychologists to face high caseloads and less time able to engage districts in planning for and engaging in preventative academic and social emotional learning strategies to address student needs in the school setting. As a NASP Delegate I foresee my role being one to network and collaborate with other delegates. This will allow me to bring back and help develop fresh ideas to consider as a state to help bolster Wisconsin school psychology programs. I hope to also develop strategies to attract and retain a diverse school psychology pool (BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, Bilingual, etc.) and consult stakeholders about the importance of maintaining the school psychologist to student ratio of 1:500.