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?

In Wyoming, we are fortunate to have a strong state association. The mission of the Wyoming School Psychology Association is to advance best practices in school psychology for the purpose of learning, behavior, and mental health of all children and youth. To that end, the ongoing goals for WSPA (professional development, ethics and standards, and addressing workforce shortages) are intertwined with NASP's strategic goals.

WSPA has worked to bring quality speakers regarding many aspects of the NASP practice model to our state, including utilizing the NASP Speakers Bureau to invite speakers to our recent fall conference. Across the state, members are advocating for expansion of our professional roles, including implementation of RTI in local districts that are still using the discrepancy model for SLD identification. WSPA has also been working to create a resource for members involving a state-wide continuum of services, as many districts are small enough that it can be tough to meet more intensive needs.

Like many states, Wyoming deals with workforce shortages. Our state has many rural areas where the school psychologist may be one of the few (or only) mental health providers. Our state association has been involved in work to create a school psychology program cohort in our state. We have also been working with the Professional Teaching Standards Board to support licensure changes such as allowing school psychologists to work with students birth to age 5. Our work in professional development and networking across the state is critical in retaining the school psychologists we have.

In Wyoming, our association’s defined values include being student centered, equity, diversity, and integrity. We recognize the social justice issues inherent in our work and in our state. Students in some parts of our state attend one room schoolhouses, where others attend city high schools, with a variety of school settings in between. We have students who have lived in Wyoming for generations, and others who will live here for a short time while their parents are stationed here for military service. Our ongoing professional development opportunities center around ensuring that all students get what they need while attending Wyoming schools and supporting school psychologists who advocate for all students.