CLAUDIA WEISS
State Delegate Candidate: Arizona

Statement 1

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

It would be my honor to serve as NASP’s Arizona Delegate. There are two main reasons why I believe I am strong candidate for this position: my long-term involvement with the Arizona Association of School Psychologists and my experience as a school psychologist in the state. I have been engaged with AASP and its work with NASP in various ways since 2006. I have served AASP and its members as Secretary, President, Regional Director, Communications Chairperson, and Continuing Professional Development Chairperson. Volunteering for these positions in AASP has allowed me to advocate for school psychologists at the state level, form connections with leaders in related educational and mental health fields in Arizona, and collaborate with other state leaders through NASP regional and national events.

I have worked in three school districts in Arizona, most recently and for the longest time at the Agua Fria Union High School District. As a practicing school psychologist, I strive to stay current on the latest research in the field to ensure that how I do my job aligns with best practices; I advocate for change when it does not. I am used to balancing my professional obligations with my obligations to the state association. I understand the time commitment professional association leadership: from checking and answering emails in a timely manner to never letting an opportunity to advocate on behalf of students, families, or fellow school psychologists pass me by even if it means rearranging my schedule on short notice. I am an effective communicator and I enjoy collaborating with others. My passion for the professional of school psychology is as strong as ever and I am dedicated to supporting my fellow school psychologists as we navigate challenges at the state and national level.

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?

Arizona, like many other states, is facing a shortage of school psychologists. One of our core beliefs in this field is that all students should feel safe at school and have access to high quality, evidence-based instructional practices. If we can increase the ratio of school psychologists to students in Arizona, many more school psychologists who currently spend most of their time on individual evaluations will be able to focus their efforts on (or at least contribute significantly to) systems-level initiatives leading to improved supports for a greater number of students. I have seen the information and innovative solutions that our current NASP Delegate brings to the table to help Arizona address this issue. As NASP Delegate, I would continue this collaboration with national and state leaders to address the shortages through additional university training programs for traditional and non-traditional students, funding and grant opportunities for more manageable school psychologist-to-student ratios, and better working conditions that would appeal to school psychologists completing training programs in other states.