JENNIFER STRONG
State Delegate Candidate: California

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

My qualifications for the role of delegate stem from a distinctive blend of educational background, professional experience, and extensive community engagement. My academic journey, which began in Northern California at the University of the Pacific, laid the initial foundation for my educational pursuits.

Subsequently, my graduate studies in the field of school psychology were undertaken in Southern California. This dual educational experience has afforded me a comprehensive understanding of the cultural and educational nuances spanning our entire state, enhancing my ability to address the diverse needs of our communities.

I hold an M.S. in School Psychology and am in the final stages of completing a Ph.D. in Psychology, Public Policy, and Law. This unique combination aligns seamlessly with the demands of the field, as school psychology operates within the framework of IDEA and California education code regulations. Furthermore, my doctoral research is wholly devoted to dismantling the limitations on IQ testing for African Americans in California. This underscores my unwavering commitment to advancing equity and inclusivity within our profession.

What truly sets me apart is my profound connection to the community, educational institutions, private practices, and the families and children we serve. Over the course of my professional journey, I've had the privilege of working closely with exceptional practitioners within my own corporation, Cognitive Diagnostic Associates, which I founded, and together, we have built a strong and supportive community in California that will soon exert a nationwide influence.

Furthermore, my active involvement in CASP has significantly expanded my reach and influence. Serving as a board member representing Orange County Region 9, I have been actively engaged in contributing to the growth and development of our profession. My participation in CASP has afforded me the opportunity to collaborate with dedicated individuals who share a common goal – addressing the challenges faced by school psychologists in our state.

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?

One of the most pressing challenges facing school psychologists in California is the overwhelming burden of assessments per school psychologist within school districts. This formidable challenge not only places a significant load on school psychologists but also takes a toll on mental health, consequently impacting the children they serve. As NASP Delegate, I am firmly committed to a comprehensive approach. My strategy involves close collaboration with CASP to raise awareness of the assessment workload crisis among stakeholders, policymakers, and the public.
Furthermore, to bolster awareness and encourage more individuals to join the school psychology profession, Cognitive Diagnostic Associates will provide mentorship opportunities for incoming psychologists. Additionally, we will actively support our employees by covering their annual membership fees for CASP, NASP, or other pertinent professional organizations. This multifaceted approach aims to not only highlight the issue but also actively contribute to its resolution and the growth of our profession.

Furthermore, I will prioritize engaging with universities to expand school psychology programs, helping alleviate workloads and the shortage of professionals in the field. By working together, we can ensure that school psychologists have the resources and support they need to provide the best possible care.