TOM BRANT
State Delegate Candidate: Connecticut

Statement 1

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

It has been my honor to serve as the NASP Delegate to the state of Connecticut for the past three years. These past three years have seen unprecedented challenges and as a collective whole we have risen above. I am proud of the work that has been completed by NASP and CASP and most importantly you, the Connecticut school psychologist, during these last three years. In my time as chair of various CASP committees and state president, I cannot recall a period of time when our field has been working harder than it currently is. We are doing amazing work, but this pace is not sustainable, and we need to keep advocating to improve the provision of our services.

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?

We are all aware that the most pressing issue in Connecticut is the shortage of school psychologists. I have personally experienced this in my school district, and it is frustrating and at times disheartening. This shortage is impacting our ability to provide school psychological services in accordance with the practice model—something that I know all of us strive to provide. However, we need to be given the time and support to practice this way. Connecticut is a great state for school psychologists to work but we must not assume it will always be this way.

As your delegate and a member of the NASP School Safety and Crisis Response and NASP Government and Public Relations committees, we are striving to address the shortage in a multitude of ways. More importantly, we are working to move past the talk phase and into the action stage. I encourage you to review the Interstate Compact as one of those actionable items. Locally, the clear and concise flow of information between NASP and CASP and vice versa will ensure that we continue to make strides in this important area. I am a school psychology junkie and absolutely love this field and believe in our work with all my heart and I look forward to continuing this work as your delegate.