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

Greetings, fellow Florida school psychologists! I am excited to run for re-election as Florida Delegate to the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). As a practitioner with more than two decades of experience, I have worked as a bilingual school psychologist in public schools, hospital settings, private practice, and as educator providing trainings in the U.S. and internationally. I understand the changing needs of diverse students, families, and schools in Florida and believe that supporting mental health and educational excellence requires equity and justice as key components.

In addition to NASP Delegate, I have served NASP as Co-Chair of the Latinx Subcommittee of the Multicultural Affairs Committee and team leader for the Bilingual Interest Group for almost two decades. I have served the FASP Board in different capacities. Recently I served as Conference Co-Chair, which required leadership to provide uninterrupted professional development to our Florida peers switching from in-person to virtual offerings in less than 24 hours due to hurricane weather. I lead the change to using state-of-the-art technology at FASP, which allowed efficient virtual systems On Demand for professional development. My work at FASP also has included serving as President, Diversity Chair, School Neuropsychology Chair, Professional Development Chair, and Private Practice Chair. My trajectory has prepared me for this moment as I represent Florida in the NASP Leadership Assembly.

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?

As NASP Delegate, I will continue working with the FASP Board and other leaders throughout Florida to address the critical shortage of school psychologists, a top priority. We are facing a crisis and need incentives for recruiting and retaining school psychologists. We must continue to advocate for paid internships, competitive salaries, and laws that identify school psychology as a critical shortage area, which would allow us to access loan forgiveness, tuition reimbursement, and any other programs that provide financial relief. Our advocacy efforts will improve our ratio of school psychologists to students served. Successful efforts will ensure that we can provide excellent academic, behavioral, and mental health supports to Florida's children and youth.

I will continue working with leaders and school districts to advocate for the comprehensive services school psychologists provide, as defined in the NASP Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services (Practice Model). The FASP Strategic Plan highlights the work we have to do in Florida and the FASP Legislative Platform prioritizes our advocacy. I will continue working to achieve our goals investing time and leadership experience for the benefit of our profession and the children and families we serve.
NASP Elections are very important for our field, and we must participate. I look forward to continuing to serve as your NASP Delegate and hope to count on your vote!