DIANE HERRICK  
State Delegate Candidate: Kentucky  
Statement 1

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

I'm a 1998 graduate of EKU’s school psychology program in my 27th year as a practitioner in Jefferson County. I joined the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS) as a graduate student and have maintained membership throughout my career. I served on the KAPS Executive Council from 2006-2018 as treasurer, president, and conference chair and helped to improve member services by introducing an online platform for membership and conference registration. As a KAPS leader, I attended extensive state leadership trainings through NASP, affording me the chance to learn firsthand about strategic goals at the national level. I have also volunteered to support NASP by reviewing convention proposals, mentoring students and early-career school psychologists, and serving on the 2018 Practice Model Revisions Review Team. I attended NASP's Public Policy Institute (PPI) in 2009, which immersed me in advocacy at the state and national levels. As a PREPaRE-trained crisis responder since 2011, I served on the KAPS crisis team for both the devastating 2012 tornadoes in West Liberty and the tragic 2018 school shooting in Marshall County. All of these activities allowed me to learn from other state and national leaders, exchange ideas with trainers and practitioners, and become more familiar with NASP's work and guiding principles. Through my relationships with psychologists from across the state, I've gained an understanding of the practice and needs of Kentucky’s urban, suburban, and rural psychologists, and I believe I could represent us all at the 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?

The most pressing issue affecting Kentucky at this time is the nationwide shortage of school psychologists. As school boards have grown to recognize the value and importance of our services, they are asking for more of us; however, we cannot meet the demand, and the impending retirement of many of our more seasoned psychologists only adds to the need. With limited in-state training programs, Kentucky districts have a smaller pool of interns and early career psychologists to recruit for open positions. The shortage is further exacerbated by practitioners leaving the field due to a heavy emphasis on compliance, which can lead to poor job satisfaction, waning enthusiasm for the field, and a mismatch between our expectations and our realities. This results in a relatively superficial provision of school psychological services. When we have too many schools and students to serve, we are often prohibited from utilizing the depth of our training to support our students and school communities to the fullest possible extent. As delegate, I want to work with NASP and KAPS to examine other options for recruiting and retaining school psychologists. This could include enhancing member awareness of NASP’s Exposure Project (an initiative to introduce the “hidden” field of school psychology to high school and college students), reviewing the efficacy and practicality of hybrid positions, examining online and hybrid training programs, and promoting the Excellence in School Psychological Services (ESPS) recognition program.