ASHLEY NIGGL-AGUIAR
State Delegate Candidate: Massachusetts

Statement 1

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

I am honored to present my candidacy for the position of state delegate, drawing upon my extensive experience and dedication to serve our community. My qualifications as a strong candidate for delegate are grounded in a deep-rooted commitment to education, leadership, and the betterment of our state.

Over six years, I actively engaged in leadership roles within my state association, including a two-year term as president. This experience showcased my ability to manage relationships, set strategic goals, and support board committees. My leadership skills further developed in my role as a school psychologist leader in my district, advocating for student well-being, educational program improvement, and an expanded role for school psychologists.

I demonstrate dedication to continuous improvement through regular participation in National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) events and training, including the Public Policy Institute. This commitment reflects my belief in lifelong learning and a desire to remain at the forefront of educational advancements.

I contribute to the academic community as an adjunct professor at Worcester State University, shaping the next generation of school psychologists. My role as a site supervisor for practicum and internships underscores my commitment to nurturing emerging talents within our field.

I actively advocated for comprehensive mental health services in our school systems, leading to manageable caseloads for school psychologists and support across the ten domains of practice. This reflects my unwavering dedication to improving student and school psychologist lives.

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 in Massachusetts is adopting the framework for the expanded role of school psychologists, addressing shortages and burnout. As an NASP Delegate, I’d collaborate with our state association to promote this framework, facilitating its adoption by building and district administrators. This would ensure school psychologists working at the highest standards, but also provide a clear roadmap for professional growth and development.

I'd work to reduce the school psychologist-to-student ratio by advocating for increased school funding, improving support quality, and reducing burnout. Additionally, I'd support our state association's committee dedicated to recruiting and supporting diverse professionals to meet the needs of our diverse student population.
In conclusion, my qualifications for state delegate include leadership in the state association, a commitment to education, and a dedication to improving school psychology. As an NASP Delegate, I'd lead efforts to standardize our profession, reduce shortages, alleviate burnout, and promote diversity in the field. I am confident in my ability to represent our interests effectively and advance our shared goals.