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

Hello, my name is Kecia Peters. I am currently finishing the term of our previous delegate and would like to submit my candidacy for my first full term as NASP Delegate for North Dakota. I am a nationally certified school psychologist and practiced in Grand Forks, North Dakota for 19 years. I am currently serving as the Field Experience Site Supervisor and Liaison for the Infuse Mental Health Grant through Minnesota State University Moorhead’s School Psychology and School Counseling Programs. I have experience working with individuals ages 3-21 with a wide range of disabilities and in many types of educational settings. Throughout my years of practice, I have had the opportunity to serve on numerous school- and district-level committees ranging from areas such as RTI/MTSS, social-emotional learning, and school climate. I have supervised graduate students in the fields of school psychology both during their practicum and internship experiences, as well as counseling psychology students building their assessment skills. I am a regular collaborator with local community agencies, medical and mental health providers, and higher-education institutions. In addition to my varied experiences, I have many personal characteristics that are well-suited for the position of NASP delegate. I am positive, solution-focused, and respectful of diverse mindsets. I have been a leader and advocate for school psychologists within my community, and I am committed to promoting awareness of our profession and the impact we have upon the well-being of children and families.

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?

I believe the most pressing issue within my state and my community is the critical shortage of school psychologists. As NASP delegate, I would like to work with our state association to generate ideas for recruitment efforts such as early awareness of the field in high school and undergraduate students, supporting re-specialization and Grow Your Own initiatives, and supporting local graduate programs. I would like to focus on retention of school psychologists in our state by improving working conditions and job satisfaction, providing structured mentorship opportunities, increasing access to meaningful professional development activities, and improving our ratios so that we are able to implement a comprehensive role aligned with the NASP Practice Model. Through the leadership trainings that I have been attending as I finish out this delegate term, I have already made connections with many other NASP leaders throughout the country. I’ve been learning from them how they have addressed shortages in their states and regions, and I am looking forward to bringing these ideas back to our association and improving conditions within our state. I’ve been energized by this work, and I am looking forward to continuing these efforts during my own term as NASP Delegate for North Dakota.