TESSA PETEREIT  
State Delegate Candidate: Nebraska  
Statement 1

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

I believe my qualifications to be the NASP state delegate for Nebraska are a balanced combination of my passion for the field of school psychology and my education, work experience, and past leadership with NSPA and NASP. I am currently serving my first term as delegate, and what a doozy these last three years have been! Navigating a pandemic and shortages in my role as a school psychologist and as a state and national leader has supported (forced) significant professional and personal growth. My school psychology journey began during college when I worked with a local school psychologist as a work study job. I completed my graduate education at the University of Nebraska- Omaha where I received my MS and Ed.S. in School Psychology and Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. My involvement with NSPA also started in graduate school by serving as the student representative on the NSPA board. Professionally, I have worked in both urban and rural positions as a school psychologist in Nebraska, each providing unique experiences, learning opportunities, and growth. My education, work and involvement within NSPA and NASP have provided me with leadership opportunities to support the profession of school psychology. I am honored to be considered for a second term to continue my work as the NASP State Delegate for Nebraska.

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?

Currently, I believe the shortage of school psychologists is the most pressing issue in Nebraska. The issue of shortages is complex and multifaceted. Shortages affect student ratios/workload which impact our roles and their alignment to the practice model. For my dissertation, I surveyed school psychologists in Nebraska on their actual and desired jobs roles and how this alignment relates to job satisfaction and burnout. This research provided me with valuable information about the diverse needs across our state and the barriers school psychologists face preventing practice within their desired roles, which led to feelings of burn out. Retention is a critical piece to addressing the issue of shortages but is only one piece of the puzzle. Work regarding shortages has been a priority at the state and national level for years, focused leadership in this area is a continued need. I see my role as delegate as the connection between NASP, NSPA, and school psychologists in Nebraska, linking the advocacy, communication, and resources of NASP to Nebraska school psychologists.