FRANCO CARRANZA
State Delegate Candidate: Nevada

Statement 1

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

My name is Franco Carranza, and I have been a nationally certified school psychologist in the Clark County School District (CCSD) for the past 10 years. As a NASP Delegate, I would bring a good mix of professional and personal experience to the position. I have been a resident of Clark County for more than 30 years, but my career in education began at CCSD in 2004 as an English Language Learner (ELL) tester, where I drew from my personal experience as a former ELL student. I then became a school district interpreter, providing valuable support to families and educators in special education meetings. This exposure piqued my interest in the school psychologist profession, inspiring me to return to school and earn my Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in school psychology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Since then, I have been proudly serving as a bilingual school psychologist assisting school teams, collaborating with fellow school psychologists, and advocating for and supporting students and families, particularly those of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In addition to my work, I have actively participated in the Nevada Association of School Psychologists (NVASP) for several years, currently as Treasurer, where we have advocated at the state level for our students and our profession. My background, combining personal experience as an ELL student and professional expertise as a bilingual school psychologist, equips me to be a strong candidate for this role.

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?

One of our most pressing issues in the state of Nevada is the severe shortage of school psychologists. While NASP recommends a student to school psychologist ratio of 500:1, as of the 2020-2021 school year the ratio in Nevada stood at an alarming 1977:1 with some areas of our state seeing even higher ratios. In my ten years of service, the reduction in bilingual school psychologists at my workplace from twelve to just four underscores the gravity of this issue. These shortages lead to unmanageable caseloads, which in turn hinder students’ access to essential services, as well as our ability to foster positive mental health and learning outcomes for them. Solutions to this problem are complex and involve a multifaceted approach that can include methods such as the improvement of recruitment and retention of personnel, creation of school-university partnerships, and securing of funds at state and district level, all while fostering inclusivity and diversity in the workforce. As your NASP Delegate, I will draw from my personal and professional experience to advocate and liaise between NASP, NVASP, and other state organizations to address school psychologist shortages in Nevada. Addressing this crisis is essential to improving educational and mental health outcomes for Nevada's students and building stronger connections between home, school, and the community.