ALAN L. LIVINGSTON
State Delegate Candidate: Nevada

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

Having held a variety of elected positions within community-based and national organizations, I am uniquely qualified to transfer those skills to the position of delegate. Having served as a delegate for another national organization, I am aware of the time commitment and work that it takes to effectively represent your home state, and thoroughly convey pertinent information back to the membership. The role of delegate requires timely and effective communication, and a passion for leadership and advocacy. This is my 17th year of practice and my 5th year in Nevada. Prior to my current position, I gained invaluable experience serving students and families in Milwaukee, WI for 12 years. Achievements including becoming a published co-author of a book chapter related to assessment, assisting with the development of a district department anti-racist framework, and working closely with city officials to development trauma-informed, anti-violence frameworks are just a few examples. In the short time that I have lived in Nevada, I have been able to build relationships that have allowed me opportunities to discuss student needs with state and local elected officials and expose students to the field of school psychology through teaching a college summer course. I have recently been able to reinvigorate my passion for social justice by working with a like-minded group of school psychologists to begin developing a culturally responsive, anti-racist framework for school psychology practice within our district. Keeping in line with NASP domains collaboration, consultation, and data-based decision making have foundational to my practice.

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 Nevada is, and has been, the extreme shortage of school psychologists. Currently, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) hosts the only school psychology program within the state. Even with the emergence of a program developing at Nevada State University, we are not able to solely rely on recent graduates to fill these vacancies. A critical responsibility of a state delegate is to share ideas and strategies for recruitment, and especially retention, with leaders from other states. This allows us the opportunity to bring back valuable insight to our state associations and develop more innovative solutions to our pressing issues. As delegate I aim to assist with developing strategies to help us recruit and retain a diverse group of rising stars in this field, which aligns with NASP strategic goals. Additionally, Nevada state legislature has enacted newly bolstered legislation that will make it easier for districts to retain students in 3rd grade who are not reading at grade level. As a leader with a history of advocacy for social justice, cultural equity, and linguistic diversity, it would be essential to the role of delegate to maintain an active presence in lobbying with state associated leaders and allies for the realignment of priorities towards intervention opposed to retention. Developing and securing funding for intensive intervention strategies aligns more closely to best practice. The marginalized and underrepresented groups within our state continue to need a champion and I aim to carry on that role.