KEVIN LABRESH
State Delegate Candidate: Utah

Statement 1

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

I am entering my 14th year as a practicing school psychologist, having covered a variety of community types from inner-city to rural schoolhouses to suburban Davis County. My experiences with coordinating services in rural communities along with collaborating as part of a large district team have made me keenly aware of the unique challenges facing Utah school psychologists and the diverse communities we serve.

I have served in a variety of leadership and supportive roles at the local, state, and national levels. Locally, I was elected by colleagues as a school psychology department liaison; helping to facilitate monthly department meetings for our fifty school psychologists, arranging professional development opportunities, and advocating with district administration for our department’s needs. I have also served in both a supervisor and mentor role to several graduate interns and practicum students. At the state level, I have served on the UASP board for the past several years with roles on multiple committees, including Public Relations Committee chair. I have worked hard to build relationships with local legislators; advocating for legislation addressing public education and youth mental health supports and testifying on behalf of such legislation before the Utah Senate Education Committee. Nationally, I serve as an administrator of “Said No School Psychologist Ever” - a social media group of over 23,000 school psychologists, where I work to provide a safe space to share resources, network, and support one another while ensuring adherence to ethical standards. I have also presented on ethical online collaboration alongside fellow group administrators at the NASP annual convention. Through these experiences, I have forged positive working relationships with many current delegates and other NASP leaders.

I recognize that one of the most important facets of effective leadership is utilizing the expertise around you and bringing out the absolute best in fellow colleagues. Through professionalism, humor, and a focus on relationship building, I consider this team building element to be one of my greatest strengths and am proud of the positive and inclusive work cultures I have helped create. I look forward to continuing this important work in conjunction with NASP.

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?

Utah is experiencing a critical shortage of school psychologists. The average ratio of psychologists to students in Utah is over 1:2000, which significantly exceeds NASP’s recommended ratio of 1:500. This impedes our ability to provide comprehensive mental health services, results in challenges meeting evaluation timelines, and leads to a higher rate of burnout. As NASP Delegate, I will build on the relationships that I have developed with state legislators, local pro-education coalitions, and UASP colleagues to collaborate on recruitment of school psychologists to our amazing state, introduce aspiring local students to the field of school psychology, and enact
favorable legislation for the continued funding and training of school psychologists in Utah. I look forward to continuing this work with UASP and collaborating with my colleagues in NASP leadership and the NASP GPR Committee to learn and apply strategies that have helped to address similar shortages in other states.