National School Psychology Week
Activities for Graduate Educators and Graduate Education Programs

National School Psychology Week is November 7–11, 2022. The theme for our 2022 National School Psychology Week is “Together We Shine”. This theme encourages us to see hope after a series of challenging years. We have all faced difficulties created by the pandemic, social injustice and inequity, economic stress, and challenges to mental and physical health. For some, it has been a time of real darkness, and finding light is critical to building resilience and hope. Though each of us has our own inner light, when we bring together our ideas and actions to uplift each other, we shine even brighter, both as individuals and as a community.

During the week, school psychologists will connect with students and staff to highlight how each person’s contribution to the collective can lead us forward. Just as we continue developing our own skills individually and with support from others, we in turn can help others foster resilience and support those who need it as well. School psychologists are particularly skilled at assisting students and staff in thriving and working together, whatever the circumstances.

For graduate educators and graduate education programs, National School Psychology Week is an opportunity to promote the theme and the profession to others at postsecondary institutions. While the theme is generally directed to school-age children and youth, its message about how school psychologists help promote individuals’ strengths and interests can be applied more broadly in efforts to raise awareness about the profession.

Suggested Activities for Graduate Educators and Graduate Education Programs

**Have class discussions about how “Together We Shine.”** What are some ways students and faculty can foster connection and hope with the students they serve in practicum and other applied experiences? Engage in class discussions about how school psychologists can lead powerful change by taking on leadership roles, improving school climate, promoting new initiatives, or engaging in systems-level activities. Doing so may help graduate students see themselves as future leaders. Use NASP’s Leadership in Action Spotlight columns to showcase examples of school psychology leaders who have been able to connect with others to shine.

**Host an information table.** Host a table in the student center or other high traffic area. At the table, include informational brochures about school psychology and the National School Psychology Week theme. Have other materials (e.g., *Communiqué*, NASP website) available for people to view. Consider distributing candy or baked treats to encourage people to stop and talk to you.

**Speak in undergraduate classes about school psychology.** Arrange to visit undergraduate classes in psychology, education, and other related fields to talk about school psychology. If you have time, consider using the PowerPoint developed by NASP that has information about the career.

**Visit or send information to other local colleges.** There may be colleges and universities in your area without school psychology programs. Consider contacting departments of psychology and education at those
universities to request time to speak in classes. If that’s not possible, consider sending informational packets about school psychology that they can have available for their students.

**Visit your university career center.** Find out if your college’s career center has information available about careers in school psychology. If not, provide them with resources they can distribute at career fairs and to students when consulting about career opportunities.

**Personally connect with faculty in other departments.** School psychology programs are often housed in schools of education or psychology departments, but there might be faculty and students in those and other departments who still don’t know much about the profession. Pay visits to other departments (e.g., teacher education, special education, counseling, social work) and connect with faculty and students during office hours or between popular class times. Stop by to introduce yourself and provide them with brief information about school psychology, the National School Psychology Week theme, and a small treat. If it’s not possible to visit with faculty and students in person, leave information in their mailboxes with a small treat.

**Host an event for prospective graduate students.** Invite psychology or education majors to an informal event to discuss graduate school in school psychology. Consider having current school psychology graduate students and alumni talk on a panel about their own experiences as undergraduates with the application process, why they chose school psychology, and what the career is like. Ask your department chair or dean for a small amount of funding to provide snacks to attendees or have faculty and students bring treats. Be sure to discuss the National School Psychology Week theme as an example of what school psychologists value and promote in schools.

**Promote the value of your program.** Calculate the economic impact of your program by describing the number of graduates, their places of employment, and their contributions to the well-being of students locally and nationally. Provide this information to the dean and other university administrators along with other information about the profession.

**Have practicum students discuss National School Psychology Week at their practicum sites.** Have practicum students work with their supervisors to promote school psychology in local schools. Present about school psychology in high school classes or provide information to school staff. See the NSPW poster activities for more ideas about promoting National School Psychology Week in schools.

**Create a video about school psychology and your program.** The video can be posted on your program’s website or on YouTube to promote the profession and your program. Incorporate the National School Psychology Week theme into your video to demonstrate the positive impact school psychologists can have.

National School Psychology Week is an important way to promote school psychology and the services school psychologists provide to children and families. Promoting school psychology in postsecondary institutions is a great way to shine a light on the profession! Let us know how you promoted National School Psychology Week in your institution using the [NSPW feedback survey](https://www.nasponline.org/NSPW/NSPW_feedback_form.html)!