

NVASP NEWS



Nevada Association of School Psychologists Newsletter

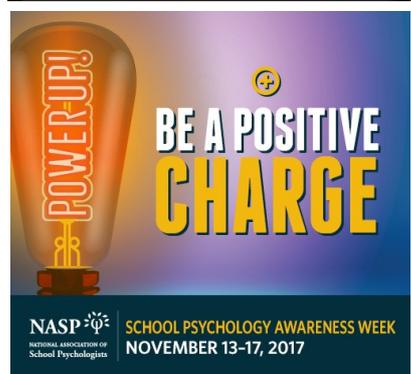
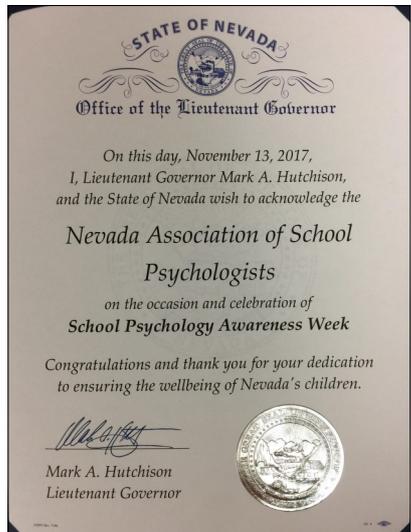
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AWARENESS WEEK

Katie Dockweiler, NVASP President

From the Nevada Association of School Psychologists board to you, happy School Psychology Awareness week! As a continuation of the recognition bestowed on our profession by Governor Sandoval and Lieutenant Governor Hutchison, we honor each of you and thank you for the work in which you endeavor. Our association works diligently to promote awareness of our profession and to get the word out to answer the question, "what do school psychologists do?" This week was the perfect opportunity to do so on a larger scale. So far, we've held a Gubernatorial Proclamation reading and recognition event at Lucille Rogers Elementary school attended by several stakeholder groups as well as representatives from the UNLV School Psychology program and Clark County School District. Assemblyman Yeager was in attendance as was the Policy Director for Nevada Succeeds and reporters from the Review Journal and Nevada Independent. Andy Haycock was interviewed by CBS Channel 2 news in Washoe County about the integral role school psychologists play in assisting school counselors and teachers, and Dr. Kathy Lee and myself were interviewed by NBC Channel 3 news in Clark County. Please check out our NVASP Facebook and Twitter pages for



pictures and links. NVASP continues to celebrate the comprehensive role school psychologists play in our schools and communities, each and every week. Thank you for all the work that you do, we are stronger and more impactful together!



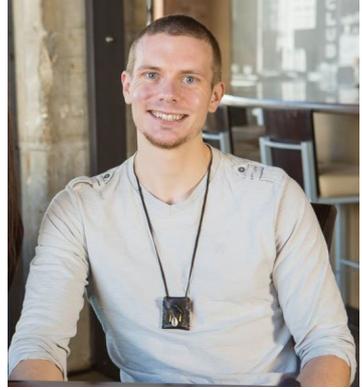


Nevada Association of School Psychologists Newsletter

UPCOMING LECTURE

Our next lecture will take place on January 13 in Reno, NV and will livestream to Las Vegas (location TBD). We are excited to welcome Russell Lehman as our guest speaker. Mr. Lehman is a motivational speaker, author, poet, and advocate, who just happens to have Autism. His work has been featured on NPR, in the L.A. Times, Autism Speaks, Yahoo! News, USA Today, WorldStar HipHop, and archived in the Library of Congress.

“A few years ago, I made a promise to myself that all the pain, anguish and agony that I have encountered would not be in vain. I made a commitment to use my experiences, and what I have learned from them, to help others overcome their challenges. I am here to give others support, inspiration and hope. I’m here to show the world that you can overcome any challenge that comes your way, and that every obstacle that confronts you, is just another chance for you to attain knowledge and personal growth. Above all, I am here to show the world that I embrace my challenges, and that we should all embrace our challenges. Yes, they make us who we are, but they do so much more than that. They inspire hope, change, accomplishment, and yes, belief. Our challenges inspire belief. The one thing that we all need to attain our goals, we receive when we embrace the challenges we are dealt.” - Russell Lehman



LECTURE SERIES: THANK YOU!

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has attended one or more of our lectures. The idea of a monthly lecture series was daunting, but the NVASP board felt strongly about the need for continued high-quality professional learning opportunities in our state. We have been so fortunate to welcome so many highly distinguished lecturers presenting on a range of topics. We hope you have found some benefit in these opportunities!





COMMITTEE UPDATES

Government & Professional Relations Committee

At our recent Gubernatorial Proclamation event we discussed the pervasive issue of mental and behavioral health across the state. Joe Roberts provided remarks regarding the shooting that took place in Las Vegas October 1, and the integrated response that immediately followed. This unified response to mental and behavioral health in our state is one that NVASP supports and will continue to promote. Recommendations were offered at the event to begin addressing these issues at the state, district, and school levels. At the school level, funds allocated under SB178 can be used for wrap around services to remediate mental and behavior health concerns (see the September NVASP Newsletter for additional information). On a larger scale, new policies and programs can be designed focusing on early intervention and prevention to target the underlying risk factors that prevent students from learning and being successful at school. In the long-run, data has demonstrated that in teaching these protective factors early, districts can expect to see an increase in student achievement, an increase in school culture and climate, an increase in high school graduation rates, and a decrease in acts of violence. NVASP is working to promote such a policy in Nevada.

Awareness and Promotion Committee

We are encouraging current graduate students during the week of School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) to utilize social media to increase awareness about the profession and the UNLV program through hashtags, tagging, and participating in program-sponsored SPAW activities that fit the current theme of Power Up! In addition, Dr. Lee and Dr. Dockweiler have pursued news Channel 3 and secured an interview which aired on Sunday 11/12/2017 to acknowledge the Gubernatorial Proclamation, to increase awareness of the profession and related responsibilities, and to increase awareness of the graduate program offered at UNLV.

Communications Committee

The NVASP Communications Committee continues to explore the most effective way to get information to members regarding upcoming lectures and social events. We are always open to suggestions, but we encourage all our members to join our Facebook page for the most frequent updates and polls on preferred social events. We have also been working to update and improve our website with hopes of transitioning to a new website in the near future. If any members are interested in assisting in this effort, please contact Stephanie Patton at stephanie.patton.nvasp@gmail.com

Shortages Committee

Critical shortages continue to impact school psychologists in Nevada as well as school psychologists across the nation. The National Association of School Psychologists (2010) recommends a ratio of no more than 1,000 students per school psychologist for basic general services. However, NASP goes on to suggest that school psychologists balance no more than a 500 to 700 student caseload for the comprehensive services that are recommended in the 10 Domains of the NASP Practice Model. Practicing school psychologists are well aware of the difference between basic general services, implementation of domains 1, 2 and 10, and providing a comprehensive level of support, by implementing practices in the other domains within the NASP Practice Model. NASP has a task force which has been working on gathering data to gain a better understanding of the shortages that exist across the nation. In 2015, Eric Rossen, director of professional development and standards at NASP, indicated that the national average of students per school psychologist is 1,653. He also indicated that some areas exceed recommended ratios by up to 10 times.

NASPs shortages task force has identified a number of factors leading to current shortages, as noted in the resource guide developed in 2016 by NASP. Currently a shortage of qualified faculty in graduate programs and limited access to NASP approved graduate programs impacts our ability

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

to assist interested candidates in obtaining the credentials necessary to practice. This affects students graduating from undergraduate programs as well as professionals, practicing in related fields, who are potentially interested in transitioning into the field of school psychology. Other contributing factors are related to difficulties in retaining practicing school psychologists. Finally, there is a need to increase cultural and linguistic diversity among practicing school psychologists.

One of the topics discussed at the NVASP leadership retreat in July 2017, was how NVASP could better recruit and retain qualified school psychologists in the state of Nevada. Many of the strategies discussed align with NASPs recommendations for addressing national shortages. With that, the board has been pleased to provide its members with high quality professional development opportunities. Another passion of the board is state-level advocacy to improve conditions for practicing school psychologists. The board is currently interested in collecting additional data from our members to further consider current working conditions in the state of Nevada. To begin, the Shortages Committee would like to gather additional data from our members to determine how shortages are impacting caseload ratios for school psychologists in Nevada and how our time is being allocated under these current conditions. **NVASP has created a short survey which will be sent to members on Wednesday November 15 2017 and will close on Friday, December 1, 2017.** Please take your time to complete this 15-question survey as current data will drive next steps in our planning for reducing shortage issues and the negative impact that these shortages have in our daily practice.

References

DeNisco, A. (2016, January 29). *Psychological stress on schools: How to work around tight budgets so the school counselor's job is done right*. Retrieved from <https://www.districtadministration.com/article/psychological-stress-schools>

National Association of School Psychologists. (2016). Addressing shortages in school psychology: Resource guide. Bethesda, MD: Author. Retrieved from <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-psychology/shortages-in-school-psychology-resource-guide>

National Association of School Psychologists. (2017). Shortages in school psychology: Challenges to meeting the growing needs of U.S. students and schools [Research summary]. Bethesda, MD: Author.

DELEGATE'S CORNER

Emma Dickinson, NASP Delegate

Greetings from the Nevada NASP Delegate! There's a lot going on in the world of NASP! We had our annual Fall Leadership Meeting where we discussed position papers, shortages, distance learning and gave input for the standards revision happening now and due in 2020. If you haven't yet registered for convention- now is the time! Happening in Chicago in February (I know it'll probably be cold) – there are a plethora of options available. Check out the President's strand and breakouts on social-emotional learning. It's a great opportunity to gain professional NASP-approved credit and network with colleagues. I hope to see everyone there! Stayed tuned to your email for the next NASP Nevada Delegate elections happening in January 2018 and be sure to vote. Just recently, we met online for the Western Region and learned about current events happening throughout the West. Most states are highly concerned with shortages – most prevalent in the Western Region. NASP has a strategic goal to address this and many initiatives are currently being developed. Keep in contact with me! dickinson@sbcglobal.net



SPOTLIGHT!



School psychologists in the Washoe County District have had the pleasure of working under the guidance of Brandy Olson since July of 2017. Brandy has been a staunch advocate of our department and the field of school psychology. Due to her efforts, school psychologists have an active voice in program planning, district-wide threat inquiry/discipline procedures and the new psychologist evaluation matrix. Washoe County is implementing a new computerized IEP system and Brandy has consistently advocated for school psychologists to have a voice in this process.

Brandy’s leadership and support have been appreciated by the Washoe County School District!

NASP Leadership in Action Spotlight Initiative

Are you helping to improve practice in your school/district? If so, NASP wants to learn more from you through the Leadership in Action Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight initiative seeks to elicit and disseminate stories of school psychologists engaged in efforts to improve system and services to children and families. Whether at the building or district level, efforts to build capacity take leadership, and your efforts can help inspire and inform other school psychologists to help lead change as well. Learn more and submit your story to NASP at <http://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy-tools-and-resources/communications-strategies-and-resources/test/the-leadership-in-action-spotlight-initiative>

HELP WANTED!

The NVASP board has lofty goals for Nevada’s school psychologists, and we cannot do it alone! Please consider joining a committee to assist.

The following committees are currently recruiting members:

- *Shortages Committee
- *Communications Committee
- *Government & Professional Relations Committee
- *Awareness & Promotion Committee
- *2018 Conference Committee
- *2019 Conference Committee

Much of the assistance needed for the above committees is research-based. You can help out from the comfort of your couch, as long as you’re willing to put in a little time and keep in close contact with committee chairs. As a committee member, you would not be required to attend NVASP open meetings.

NVASP Core Purpose:

The Nevada Association of School Psychologists embodies a unified community that advances opportunities for school psychologists across the state.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 13-17

School Psychology Awareness Week
Power Up! Be A Positive Charge

Dec 9

NVASP Social
Time and Location TBD
(Check Facebook page for details)

Jan 13

NVASP Lecture: Russell Lehman
Motivational Speaker
Location and Time TBD

Feb 13-17

NASP Conference
Chicago, Illinois

March 10

NVASP Lecture: Whitney Owens
Positive Psychology
Location and Time TBD