

Shannon Cassidy
Secretary Nomination

1) What is your background, professional experience and education?

I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist working in Washington County, MD. This is my fifth year in the field and I have spent my entire career with WCPS. I received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Towson University as an undergraduate student. My graduate education resulted in a Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology and a Psychology Specialist in School Psychology, both from Gallaudet University. Currently I am pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership with a focus in special education at Frostburg State University. My professional interests include working with students who have specific learning disabilities, legislation and policy that impact educational practices, and systems level leadership.

2) What is your leadership capability and/or issues that currently unite school psychologists from the rural, urban and suburban areas of Maryland?

I currently serve on the MSPA Executive Board as the Secretary and I also have experienced on the board as Legislative Committee Chair and Student Representative. Additionally, I serve as the School Psychology Action Network contact for Maryland through NASP. Finally, I serve as the team lead for the psychologists in my district of Washington County. All of these leadership positions provide me the opportunity to understand diverse needs and challenges that impact different regions and populations. In my roles for MSPA I engage with individuals in a variety of positions from across the state to understand various needs that impact our field. Within my role from NASP I am able to collaborate with school psychologists from across the county which provides tremendous insight into how other areas address needs. As the team lead for my LEA's school psychologists I am exposed to challenges that impact school psychologists differently based on the population with which they work.

3) What are the future issues that will impact our profession during your tenure?

An ongoing issue that I feel significantly impacts the field of school psychology is the opportunity for school psychologists to provide comprehensive services to maximize the success of all students within Maryland. As the standards for best practice and comprehensive service delivery become more significant as well as understood, it is essential that Maryland school psychologists are able to use all of the training and knowledge they possess in order to impact child outcomes. As a profession we have the ability to play a significant role in student's lives and it is imperative we are provided the opportunity to do so.