

My name is Lisa Backman and currently running for re-election. I am so proud of the work MASP has accomplished after a turbulent year as President-Elect and a bustling year as President. In the past two years, MASP officers and committee members have endlessly volunteered their expertise and time to support our membership. We have not only worked diligently toward our strategic goals but aspirations NASP has also found to be priorities. Please take a moment to share our accomplishments toward the strategic plan and learn of my hope to foster these successes with my re-election.

To support our behavioral-mental health and SEL goal, MASP provided professional development with increased member attendance. For our members, we held two in-person workshops focused on social justice and one with a mental health focus. These conferences included NASP leaders who specialize in marginalized youth and a renowned school psychologist who shared her expertise with violent and aggressive youth. In the next school year, MASP plans additional CEU opportunities that focus on autism and mental health, neurobehavioral disorders associated with prenatal alcohol exposure, early childhood authentic assessment, and ethics.

Our focus on broadening MASP's public awareness has been multi-faceted. This year, our current past president presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs about our profession and diverse roles in schools. Additionally, MASP members provided more than four successful collaborative conferences with USM, DOE, and MADSEC. The vast topics showed our expertise in orthographic processing, specific learning disability eligibility, and supervision. Two work groups provided the DOE with information for an Emotional Disability eligibility form and a new Manifestation Determination form. MASP board members also have roles on the MADSEC rep board and Maine's advisory board. As we await the draft MUSER, future work includes offering public comment and collaborating with MADSEC and Eric Hurlan for potential professional development concerning the updates.

One of my continued passions is our goal of expanding our profession beyond "just evaluators." For twenty-three years, I have been fortunate to work in a district that recognizes the NASP professional standards. As a Professional Standards Committee Co-Chair, we developed the MASP Professional Standard for School Psychologists PEPG tool. Although my school district has a formal supervision and evaluation policy, I have been able to use the ten domains of practice for goal setting with my director. This approach has been an indirect method to teach how diverse our professional knowledge and skills are. Through past and future work, expanding our practices in schools is necessary to support the diverse needs of students and families. I believe we are making inroads with school and state leaders in their recognition of our potential. For example, Education Commissioner Pender Makin once shared, "School psychologists play such an important role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students and creating safe, welcoming, and supportive environments for our young people." Additionally, just this week, a director shared with the MADSEC rep board that the Maine DOE Mental Health/School Counselor Specialist shared that school psychologists can provide IEP behavioral-mental health and SEL services.

The expansion of our roles does depend on addressing shortages in Maine. Our presence with stakeholders and "being at the table" has increased the awareness of this state and national shortage. While continued work is necessary, I am very excited to experience the impact MASP may have in addressing school psychologist shortages. One of my highlights this year was to provide one-year free MASP membership to USM students. As a result, we had more graduate and doctoral students participating in MASP events such as providing professional development, sharing their dissertations, volunteering at conferences, and having a student role on the executive board. This past year, I have

enjoyed meeting many future school psychologists during their classes and practicums, at NASP's national convention, and at other professional celebrations. I hope their experiences with those of us in the field will reinforce that they chose an excellent and fulfilling profession. MASP also provided a letter of support for the Maine School Psychology: Collaborative Affiliations in Rural Education (CAREs) grant. This grant will enhance the equity of services across our state.

Our strategic goals are intertwined and a focus for MASP. To be an effective association, additional advancements were implemented in the past couple of years. New committees were created with changes in committee and executive board leadership that supports a continued openness for increased membership, diversity, and inclusivity. Of relevance is MASP's improved election and nomination policies and procedures that will soon be tested during this respectful, collaborative presidential campaign. After, the committee will reflect on their tireless work and be open to any necessary revisions.

As I reflect on my past couple of years, I need to graciously thank the people who supported this comprehensive work and my role in MASP. I could not have done this without your guidance, expertise, time, and humor. My commitment and energy to continue pushing the needle forward are equally as strong as my desire to advocate for our MASP members and profession. Continuing with another term as MASP President, I will devote my professionalism, invest in current and new relationships, and strive for growth in the school psychology domains to support our members and the children they serve in Maine. MASP is your state association. While I genuinely welcome your vote and ideas to better support our communities, I am confident your professional voice, successes, and needs will be heard and carefully considered as priorities for either candidate. Thank you, for your consideration and all you do for children, families, and educators in Maine.