



Nevada Association of School Psychologists Newsletter

LECTURE SERIES KICK-OFF

As you may be aware, we are launching the NVASP Lecture Series this month! We are excited to bring Nevada’s school psychologists a variety of professional development opportunities across a broad spectrum of educational themes. This month’s lecture: Save a Child, Save a Toe focuses on grief and trauma in students. CCSD’s Department of Student Threat Evaluation and Crisis Response will be presenting, and we are excited to host the Toe Tag Monologues as a special treat! The Toe Tag Monologues are a series of monologues created by the Vision Theatrical Foundation. Through performance-based educational theater, Vision Theatrical Foundation saves lives and builds Character, Confidence, Courage, and Commitment in our children. The Toe Tag Monologues are performed in schools, juvenile detention facilities, community centers, and other venues throughout the world.



Photo from Vision Theatrical Foundation website

We hope all our members will consider joining us at this unique interdisciplinary experience. You are invited to hone your skills as an effective and reflective practitioner, aligning with Domains 2, 4, 6, & 7 under the NASP Practice Model and Nevada’s School Psychologist Evaluation Framework. We are partnering with the Nevada National Board Professional Learning Institute, Nevada State Education Association, Nevada School Counselor Association, UNLV School Psychology Program, and UNLV College of Education Alumni Association. Through participation in the Save a Child, Save a Toe event, you will:

- Increase knowledge of environmental and cultural competency to promote positive student outcomes and wellness.
- Increase awareness of facilitated resolution situations, as well as professional responsibilities and leadership roles.
- Increase understanding of family-school collaboration, prevention, consultation, and mental health services.

You will also earn 3 NASP-approved credits for your attendance. Event space is very limited, so school psychologists are encouraged to register soon in order to secure a spot. **Please note that the event will take place in Las Vegas with live streaming in Reno. To view the livestream, please register online and meet your Reno colleagues at Depoali Middle School, Room 110 at 9am on Sept 30.

Please visit the [NVASP website](http://www.nvasp.org) to register.

SAVE A CHILD, SAVE A TOE

REGISTER TODAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 9:00-12:00
SWITCH INNEVATION CENTER



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LECTURE SERIES: COMING UP...

Next month's lecture series will focus on Cross-Battery Assessment. On Saturday, October 14, NVASP will be hosting Dr. Vincent Alfonso, Dean of Gonzaga University College of Education. Dr. Alfonso is the past president of Division 16 (School Psychology) of the American Psychological Association (APA), past president of the Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (WACTE), fellow of Divisions 16 and 5 of the APA, and a certified school psychologist and licensed psychologist. We are excited to welcome Dr. Alfonso to Nevada. This lecture will take place on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Campus and will live-stream in Reno.

Keep an eye on the NVASP website for more details on Dr. Alfonso's presentation and to register for the event.

Many more details to come in the October Newsletter!

SPOTLIGHT!

The NVASP board is pleased to announce our first psychologist in the SPOTLIGHT: **Danielle Shaw**. Danielle acquired her EdS in School Psychology from UNLV. She has worked for Clark County School District since 2003 and will soon be transitioning from CCSD to Washoe County. Danielle has been a mentor to psychologists who are new to CCSD, as well as a practicum supervisor and an intern supervisor. She has served as an autism consultant from the onset of her career and is often called upon by her colleagues for consultation related to policies, procedures and her professional opinion regarding tough cases. Danielle's supervisors often ask her to handle difficult, litigious cases for schools district-wide. She has a reputation for her high level of professionalism and is very well respected not only by fellow school psychologists, but by the parents, teachers, and administrators for whom she has provided support. Those of us in southern Nevada are very sad to see her go, but we are grateful that our state will continue to benefit from the practices of Danielle Shaw.

If you have someone in mind who deserves to be recognized, please email [Stephanie Patton](mailto:Stephanie.Patton@nvasp.org).

THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY IN NEVADA: SPAW

Heather Thompson, SASP President

The Student Affiliates in School Psychology (SASP) is an organization formed under the auspices of the Division 16 Executive Committee of the American Psychological Association (APA). Our philosophy is based upon the idea that the student who is informed of and involved in professional issues today forms the nexus to a strong discipline in the future. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas chapter of SASP focuses on providing opportunities for further development for all students admitted into the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School Psychology Program and positively impacting the campus and local Las Vegas community.



For more information, visit <http://saspsunlv.weebly.com/>



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Government & Professional Relations Committee

Addressing mental health, intervention services, and parent engagement continue to pose challenges, as well as opportunities, in our schools. With the close of the most recent legislative session, districts and schools have been grappling with ways to meet the various needs of their students and communities while upholding state mandates. There are several ways you can engage in the discussion and find ways to meaningfully impact the schools that you serve.

The New Nevada Education Funding Plan (2017) is one such opportunity. SB178 prescribes changes to the statewide average basic support guarantee (per pupil expenditure) for the next biennium. These changes include “additional resources expressed as a multiplier of the basic support guarantee, to meet the unique needs of certain categories of pupils...These additional resources are expressed as a multiplier of the basic support guarantee per pupil. (NRS 387.121, 388.429).” These certain categories of students include those who are English learners or are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch, scored at or below the 25th percentile on an assessment of proficiency, are not enrolled at a Zoom or Victory school, and do not have an IEP. For full descriptions of the categories, see Section 8 of the bill. In other words, students who fall under these categories may qualify as students eligible for [their schools to receive] the additional resources pending certain criteria expressed in the bill.

If a school does receive money according to Section 8, it must use 90% or more of the money on extended learning opportunities, academic interventions, early childhood education, or another approved strategy. In addition to using the monies for one or more of the aforementioned activities, the school may also elect to spend up to 10% of the money (10% of the 90%) on 1) programs and services designed to engage parents and families, 2) programs to improve school climate and culture, or 3) services to improve students’ and families social, psychological, or health status. *This is at the heart of what school psychologists do!*

Understanding the law and knowing how we can contribute is key to making change. We can use this knowledge to advocate for our students and help school leaders make meaningful and impactful decisions. The following tips are offered to facilitate discussions with school leaders regarding opportunities for change:

Be a Resource. Share that you are familiar with SB178 and offer yourself as a resource to help make decisions regarding ways to engage parents, how to improve school climate and culture, or ways to improve the social and psychological status of the students.

Engage in Implementation. In addition to being a resource, offer to actively engage in any change innovation you suggest. Request that the available funds, up to 10% of the 90%, be spent on social-emotional and mental health programs and services.

Have Conversations. Engage in conversations at your schools surrounding the use of funds, and then share the information with your school psychologist colleagues. Sharing ideas about what works, and what hasn’t worked yet, could be advantageous to a school psychologist on another campus.

Unless we try, we never know what could be.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has been hard at work this month. As you can see, we have managed to develop our first full-length newsletter and are excited to continue the momentum. We have also been working hard to update and improve the NVASP website to make it easy to navigate. The Communications Committee will soon begin working on revamping the NVASP “brand” by updating our logo.



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Shortages Committee

The Shortages Committee is working on a number of tasks to tackle the shortages across the state of Nevada. We are currently reviewing the Professional Growth System Reference Guide to align accepted professional growth standards with those required by NASP for our NCSP certification. With that, the committee hopes to be able to revise other CU-earning options to better reflect the number of reports and MDTs that one a SP's caseload in any given year. Furthermore, we are also advocating for districts to acknowledge the credits of graduate level training that SPs must obtain prior to obtaining a license to practice in the state of Nevada.

The shortages committee is also working with the Government and Professional Relations committee to address better reflection of SPs in Nevada state educational laws. For example, ensuring that SPs are required, by law, to be supervised and evaluated by licensed SPs. Or by having state law reflect caseload numbers that are consistent with NASP guidelines and best practices. Finally, the committee is continuing to gather state-wide shortage data. Most recent data is from 2015-2016 school year, indicating a shortage of 33 SPs across the state of Nevada.

Awareness & Promotion Committee

Responsibilities of the Awareness & Promotion Committee include: 1) Outreach to undergraduate psychology and education programs across the nation to attract high-quality applicants to the school psychology graduate program(s) within the state and 1) Outreach to state school psychology organizations to advertise employment opportunities and benefits within the state. Strategies may include direct in-person contact, participation and advertisement in conferences, email, social media, and distribution of promotional materials.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Katie Dockweiler, NVASP President

The Nevada Association of School Psychologists is proud to launch our Lecture Series, a unique professional learning model tailored to the differentiated needs of our members. Each of our monthly Lecture Series events will directly align with select NASP Practice Model Domains, and subsequently, Nevada's Statewide School Psychologist Evaluation Framework. Our efforts are intentional and ensure that our members are provided with quality professional learning that aligns to our profession. Since NVASP is a NASP provider, the hours can be counted toward your professional growth plan and NCSP renewal. There will be a total of six Lecture Series events each year and will occur in the months of September, October, November, January, March, and April. Each event will be presented in three-hour increments and will be live-streamed between Washoe and Clark Counties.

Our first Lecture Series event is *Save a Child, Save a Toe* and is hosted in partnership with Toe Tag Monologues and the Clark County School District's Department of Student Threat Evaluation and Crisis Response. One resounding theme that is being heard over and over again in School Organizational Team meetings across the state is the growing awareness, and acknowledged need for, school-based mental health services. (Additional information surrounding this topic can be found in the Government and Professional Relations Committee section of this Newsletter.) This first Lecture Series event takes a team-based approach to how education professionals can work together to meet the mental health needs of our students.

The Nevada Association of School Psychologists strives too meet the needs of our members and to provide meaningful and impactful engagement. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Lecture Series events!



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DELEGATE'S CORNER

Emma Dickinson, NASP Delegate

Greetings! This week I will be traveling to Bethesda along with 50 other delegates, NASP Committee Chairs and Board members for the annual NASP Fall Leadership Meeting (FLM). This will be my 8th FLM meeting! Looking back over my time serving, having never been involved in governance, it was a learning curve at first. The format is similar to the political forums we have in Congress, using Roberts Rules of Order and microphones to speak out. The agenda for this week includes a motion to approve NASP's Strategic Plan, break outs to gather information on the 2021 NASP Standards Revision and approval of NASP official position papers. Mainly, though, I get to see my colleagues I have formed relationships with over the years, enjoy a run at altitude on the Georgetown Branch Trail and generally breathe in the oxygen not found in the mountains of Nevada. The food in Bethesda is outstanding!

Lastly, I wanted to point out to everyone that the deadline for self-nomination for running for the NASP Delegate Position is midnight Eastern Standard Time this Friday, September 15th. Email Steven Brock at brock@csus.edu if you are at all interested in running for the position and taking on this fun and exciting endeavor!!!

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

Sept 15

Deadline to self-nominate for NASP Delegate position
Email brock@csus.edu to self-nominate

Sept 30, 9am-12pm

Lecture Series Kickoff
Save a Child, Save a Toe
Switch Innervations

Sept 30, Time TBD

UNLV SASP Family Movie Night and Happy Hour
Town Square

Oct 14, 9am-12pm

October Lecture Series
Cross-Battery Assessment
Dr. Vinny Alfonso
UNLV, Room TBD

Nov 1, 5pm-6:45pm

Mentoring Panel with Interns
UNLV CEB 239

Nov 4, 8:30am-3:30pm

November Lecture Series
Comorbid Disorders in Children
Dr. Sam Goldstein
UNLV, Room TBD

Nov 13-17

School Psychology Awareness Week
Power Up! Be A Positive Charge