

Name: Catherine Stuart
Nomination for MSPA Secretary

1. What is your background, experience and education?

I am a school psychologist in Baltimore City Public Schools and have been working in the city for the last four-and-a-half years. Since June 2018, I have been a member of the Prevention and Intervention for Early Learners (PIEL) Team where I work with fellow school psychologists, SLPs, OTs, social workers, and an education specialist to support systemic level changes in schools, specifically for pre-kindergarten to second grade. I completed my undergraduate studies at NC State University with dual degrees in Psychology, B.A. and Applied Sociology, B.S.. I also completed graduate studies at the University of Alabama with a Masters of Art degree in Educational Psychology and an Education Specialist degree in School Psychology. My areas of professional interests are with early intervention, academic peer tutoring, supporting collaborative problem-solving teams, social-emotional learning (SEL), and positive psychology initiatives.

2. What is your leadership capability?

I have had the opportunity to take on leadership roles in various organizations that support school psychologists. I am the President of the Baltimore City Association of School Psychologists (BCASP) for 2018-2019 and was previously the President-Elect and Secretary. As an officer in BCASP, I have been responsible for working on initiatives with our committees that bring our members together, organizing charity events, and maintaining documentation for our organization. I have also been an active member of MSPA since 2014 and have been a co-chair on Public Affairs for two years. I recently joined the Re-Branding committee to help with updating the MSPA logo, website, and graphic design platforms. As of this year, I attend MSPA monthly board meetings on a regular basis and have been involved in the decision-making of various initiatives. An important initiative that I have helped develop in my district is the ability to train educators on the evidence and research-based reading fluency intervention program called Helping Early Literacy with Practice Strategies (HELPS). As secretary for MSPA, I will be able to take on the responsibility of collaboratively working with board members, school psychologists, active members, and stakeholders working to maintain and improve upon the current functioning of the organization. I will also take the initiative on tasks given to me and maintain necessary documentation for the organization.

3. What are the future issues that may impact your tenure and state-wide psychologists?

The future issues that will impact my tenure and all state-wide school psychologists are the needs for our continued advocacy of our roles in the area of mental health and education. School psychologists have many skill-sets for helping students thrive in school and in the community; however, there are many school leaders and state legislators who are not aware of how our roles can positively impact our students, schools, and communities. This also impacts employment of school psychologists as the stresses and pressures from heavy caseloads and dealing with daily

crises pushes them out of the field. It's important for leaders in education and politics to know who we are and for us to continue to advocate for our roles so we can work more effectively in supporting students academically, social-emotionally, and behaviorally.