**The Future of School Psychology is Strong!**

**Session Title**

The Future of School Psychology is Strong! A Strength-based Approach to Practicing School Psychology.

**Session Description**

Leading medical organizations (such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children’s Hospital Association) have declared a mental health crisis for the nation's youth. In the midst of this mental health crisis, school psychologists must expand their role to meet the needs of youth. In this session, your conventional notions about the role of school psychologists will be challenged. You will be pushed toward developing a deeper understanding of the role of school psychologists and begin conceptualizing a future where school psychologists are change agents. Importantly, you will leave energized and inspired to shift away from inequitable practices rooted in deficit thinking and begin to move toward strength-based practices.

**Session Learner Objectives**

1. Attendees will be able to identify the key challenges and the evolving role of school psychologists, grounded in the NASP practice model, in addressing the mental health crisis among the nation's youth.
2. Following this presentation, participants will be able to analyze and critique traditional deficit-based approaches in school psychology practice and articulate the benefits of adopting a strength-based perspective to support students' mental health and well-being better.
3. Session participants will be able to apply strength-based principles and strategies in their own practice and within their school community.