

I moved to Arizona toward the end of my graduate school training in Colorado to complete an internship and be closer to extended family. I attended University of Northern Colorado in Greeley to obtain my Education Specialist Degree in School Psychology. My program had a strong emphasis on rural school psychology, neuropsychology, and counseling in addition to psychometrics and testing, with the idea that we would be practitioners who could deliver services in all areas of the NASP practice model. I moved my family from rural Colorado to rural Arizona, where I have been serving ever since, enjoying high desert climate and Ponderosa pines. In my free time, I hike, spend time outdoors, teach group fitness classes, and provide personal training, when not skyping my college kids or watching a good movie. I also hosted exchange students for a couple years.

Prior to my career in school psychology, I ran a developmental evaluation clinic through the health department which involved multiple disciplines and clinicians to give access to these services in rural communities. I was a case manager for developmental disabilities for early intervention, children, and developmentally disabled parents in our service area while also leading various youth programs. I have worked with youth groups, in group homes, with foster children, in preschools, and as a substitute teacher. It is no wonder I was drawn to school psychology, advocating for children and youth.

I have been with Humboldt Unified School District for about 6 years after working with Prescott Unified School District and Chino Unified School District after internship. I enjoy working with some of our more challenged groups of children and classrooms such as Emotional Disabilities, Autism, ADHD, and low incidence disabilities from preschool through Middle School. I have also been interested in professional development for school psychologists and school staff to stay abreast of current, research-based practices and services that benefit all children. This has led to the position of lead psychologist in my district and a desire to be involved in AASP and NASP.

This last year I have been fortunate to meet the rest of the AASP board, hear about what other districts are doing, and become aware of education policies affecting our schools. I have been able to fill a vacancy as a Northern Region Director and to reach out to School Psychologist in our vast geographic region in Northern Arizona. I hope to continue to be a support and be a voice for our rural region as well as find ways to provide professional development for professional in our area.