



OSPA TODAY

THE NEWSLETTER FOR OKLAHOMA SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

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OSPA Fall Conference 2011

The OSPA Fall Conference will be November 18 at Francis Tuttle Technology Center-Rockwell Campus. Please join us to gain tools that you can put into practice immediately! Topics include simplified FBA with Dr. Amy McCart and the new NASP Practice Model will be presented and discussed by a NASP representative. More information to come! Please see ospaweb.org for more information and to register.

President Elect Nominations Needed

Nominations are needed for the office of President Elect. Please send nominations to: Jennifer VanHemert at Jennifer.vanhemert@edmondschools.net. They are due by October 30 in order to be considered for a vote by the Board Members.

OSPA Presidential Address-A Season of Change

Greetings Members/ Readers:

I hope the close of summer finds you all happy, rested, and in good health. I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to serve as president for OSPA in the coming year! I am humbled and appreciative of my predecessors who have created and sustained this organization since 1974. Under their leadership, OSPA has continued to make great progress towards our goals of creating a professional community for school psychologists, advancing our profession and practices within the state of Oklahoma, and advocating for the education, mental health, and welfare of children in our state. There is much to uphold following in the steps of these leaders, but there is also much work and adjustment ahead as this organization strives to exemplify current, comprehensive best practices at the local, state, and national levels.

Our dynamic profession is presently facing many exciting changes and challenges including:

- successful integration of the NASP Practice Model within our current scope of practice
- providing comprehensive services in the face of significant budget cuts and legislative change
- advocating for appropriate work conditions, credentialing, and legal protections for school psychologists
- offering superior training and research opportunities at higher education institutions
- recruitment and retention of top-notch school psychologists in OK
- impending implementation of common core standards
- rising levels of diversity within our state
- increasing the use of technology to provide quality professional development opportunities and improved professional networking capabilities
- execution of continued best practices in the areas of academic and behavioral intervention, mental health treatment and support, crisis response, and child advocacy

It is a great time to be a school psychologist, and there is much work to be done as we navigate these issues and the many others that are on the forefront of our profession. The trust and time that our members place into OSPA is very valuable, and therefore the Executive Board has a great responsibility to serve the profession and its members in meaningful, visible, and proactive ways. I am excited for the dedication, vision, and enthusiasm of our current board members.

I am honored by the trust you have placed in me as president and energized by the challenges that lie ahead. It is my hope that I am able to serve as well as those before me in this exciting time of change and challenge. In my view, there is not a community of professionals that is more dedicated, hard-working, proficient, or caring as those in school psychology, and I am privileged to be counted among them.

Warm Regards,
Erika Stevens Olinger

Quote of the Month

"Your role as a leader is even more important than you might imagine. You have the power to help people become winners." --
Ken Blanchard

Erika Olinger
OSPA President 2011

OSPA Board Members 2011-2012

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Pres. Elect: Vacant
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Treas. Elect: Laura Eckert
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