President Nominee:

Jessica Luzier, Ph.D., ABPP

 I am excited to accept a nomination for the presidency of WVPA.  I enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to continue the progress made by previous and existing WVPA leaders, while further advancing WVPA’s mission to promote awareness of psychology in our communities, advocate for important issues affecting psychologists and our patients, and to enhance support and professional development for psychologists in our state. My involvement in the organization began when I came to West Virginia for internship training in 2009.  I’ve since experienced the support and benefits WVPA offers members as both a student and ECP member, which have helped me to thrive as an early career psychologist in WV. I am thankful to have had a variety of opportunities to serve the organization, especially related to ECP/student programming, federal advocacy coordination, and state advocacy ventures. Together with my colleague Scott Fields and the WVPA lobbyist Frank Hartman, I worked to change the Sequence of Training for doctoral licensure applicants in our state. Through years of careful, judicious collaboration with other associations and the Board of Examiners, this legislation passed unanimously in the spring of 2016. This change was groundbreaking for our state, and I am certain that WV will be better positioned to recruit and retain new psychologists.

 I have a history of leadership accomplishments, including activity in the Ohio Psychological Association, where I was the only graduate student to be awarded the APA Heiser Award for Advocacy for my work in changing the licensure law to better reflect current standards of doctoral training in Ohio. In my current role in an academic medical center, I serve as a Clinical Director of an inter-professional eating disorder treatment team, member of the comprehensive Dialectical Behavioral Therapy for Adolescents program, and provide general child and adolescent treatment services and supervision for pre-doctoral interns. I have the privilege of working alongside other providers, including physicians, social workers, and registered dieticians, with the shared goal of providing the very best evidence based care. My favorite part about my job is that I wear many hats: provider, teacher, supervisor, mentor, mentee, researcher, advocate, leader, and learner. This diversity in roles provides me with insight into the various strengths that psychologists offer in a range of professional settings and activities.  I’m also a wife, mother of a wild toddler, and avid lover of dogs and horses.

 If elected president, I will continue to work creatively and collaboratively with stakeholder groups, legislators, and others to improve access to quality health care in West Virginia. At the same time, I recognize the importance of psychologists maintaining and protecting our identity when it comes to our role as providers, teachers, researchers, consultants, managers, and supervisors. I also will work within our organization to improve our ability to work as efficiently and as effectively as possible by considering quality improvement initiatives and by clarifying the highest priorities of our WVPA members. I would very much appreciate your support and your vote for presidency of WVPA.