

## **Student Representative Finalists**

### **Heather A Katz**

Heather Katz is a second year PhD student in the Promotion of Health Equity and Adapted Physical Activity lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the direction of Dr. Luis Columna. She currently assists in the implementation of the Fit Families, a program that promotes physical activity opportunities for children with disabilities and their families. As part of Fit Families, Heather is responsible for the program's logistics, including volunteer training, data collection, and workshop facilitation. Prior to beginning her PhD work at UW, she was an adapted physical education (APE) specialist in Denton, TX for four years. Here, she experienced firsthand the strengths and areas for growth in our field. Her practical background as an APE specialist allows for a unique perspective in both research and advocacy at the higher education level. At UW-Madison, her primary research interest focuses on filling the gaps of limited PA opportunities for students, specifically by means of dance. Her recent publication, *Zero Fear Strategies for Teaching Adapted Dance Fitness*, aims to provide APE specialists with the tools to teach a mode of physical activity that is likely to appeal to a wide array of students as enjoyable lifetime PA. In addition to research, Heather continues to develop her pedagogical practice by teaching virtual adapted dance fitness classes to individuals with disabilities throughout the United States. As a student representative on the NCPEID board of directors, Heather's practical background and emerging research experience will provide valuable insight as NCPEID continues to serve our field.

### **Myung Ha (Mason) Sur**

I am a fourth-year doctoral student at Georgia State University working with Dr. Deborah Shapiro. I received my master's degree in adapted physical education from Northern Illinois University under the advisement of Dr. So-Yeun Kim and Dr. Laurie Zittle. As a master's degree student, I gained practical experience teaching adapted physical education in preschool and elementary school settings and conducted research on parents' attitudes towards physical activity for their children with disabilities. As a doctoral student, I have continued to teach adapted physical education in elementary and middle school settings and supervised students during student teaching at all levels. During college teaching, I have infused elements of adapted physical activity/education to students to promote disability awareness and practical knowledge regarding how to teach and accommodate students with disabilities in physical education settings. My research interests focus on physical activity promotion among persons with disabilities using behavior change theories. I have presented my research both orally and as poster sessions at national (SHAPE America, NCPEID) and international (NAFAPA, ISAPA) conferences. I have also worked as an interim student representative at NCPEID from 2020 to advocate the organization's mission. In addition, I am actively working with website committee members of NCPEID to upload helpful information for people with disabilities and stakeholders (e.g., parents and teachers) to promote and support adapted physical activity/education. My dedication to attending professional organizations and demonstrated ability to support the organization make me a strong candidate to address the responsibilities of the student representative.