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KSHA
Communicator

A publication of the
Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

KENTUCKY
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association



*Setting the P·A·C·E
for our Profession*

2024 Convention Wrap Up

2024 Award Winners

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President's Message

Robyn Wahl
KSHA President




It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the Kentucky Speech-Language Hearing Association this year. I have enjoyed

working with a great team of volunteers who share a passion for supporting audiologists and speech-language pathologists across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We continue to support the mission and vision of KSHA by empowering, educating, and engaging our members and community. The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan provides specifics on how we will continue to grow our voices as we support ongoing advocacy efforts, continuing education opportunities, and work toward increasing cultural humility and understanding.

We continue to have a strong voice in Frankfort to advocate for the much-needed rate increases for Medicaid and KEIS (Kentucky Early Intervention System; formerly known as First Steps) reimbursement, and bills that support our clients' needs. However, our advocacy efforts extend beyond the work that we do in Frankfort. We strive to EMPOWER YOU to advocate for your needs in your workplace. We want each KSHA member to have access to the tools you need to ask for the changes you need to do your jobs. We are expanding the Kentucky Advocacy Network—equipping members with tools for advocacy. It has been my mission to share this program with all KSHA members and support you to make an impact in your

local, district, healthcare network, and work environment. We are excited to offer members three FREE continuing education events throughout the year to EDUCATE ourselves on the procedures and power of advocacy at the local level. These sessions will be led by Coty Back, a motivational speaker and leadership expert from Greater Potential Leadership. Be on the lookout for the dates of these sessions on our social media and email communications. You are welcome to attend as many as you are able – and those who attend all three sessions will be recognized at the 2025 KSHA Convention as an iKAN Champion.

Our final goal is to ENGAGE with you, our members, as well as the community. Please continue to share ideas, collaborate with KSHA, and volunteer to serve your profession. We want to actively engage our members through community and networking opportunities, by fostering collaboration and connection among individuals with shared goals and interests. By investing in our members' growth and building a strong sense of community, we strive to support our members across Kentucky. With your support, KSHA will continue efforts to engage with the community to strengthen the voice of our professions.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you this year. I am blessed by knowing you and working with you and this fabulous KSHA team. I look forward to continuing to work with you, and for the future of our professions in the Commonwealth. 

KSHA Convention 2024 Wrap-Up

Katie McComas Maddy and Kayla Redden
KSHA Convention Co-Directors



INNOVATION@WORK



That's a wrap on KSHA CON24! Planning is already underway for next year. If


you attended, we hope we were able to not only inspire you to be **Innovative@Work**, but also that you left feeling recharged for the year to come! There was a great turnout with 1,126 attendees and more than 30 exhibitors!

Thanks to our student organizations, the silent auction raised a total of \$5,350 which will go towards funding for each NSSLHA group. It was a

very close race between UK and EKU to pull ahead, but UK finished in first place raising \$2,127 with EKU right behind earning \$1,118. If you did not get to check out the silent auction this year, you missed out – jewelry, coffee, bourbon, and more! Speaking of universities, the team from the University of Louisville won the Golden Brain competition, again! Congratulations!

We are reviewing compliments, concerns, and comments in order to adjust for next year, which we know will be bigger and better. We would like to thank our many volunteers who work on the planning and program

committee, as well as those who worked tirelessly at registration. You made it easy on us! We also want to thank the many presenters who shared their plethora of knowledge and challenged us to be **Innovative@Work**.


Finally, thanks to Melissa Joseph and her team at Craven Management Associates for knocking it out of the park again! Their energy, organizational skills, and willingness to go the extra mile were much appreciated. We will see you in Lexington next year! 

Congratulations Winners



Congratulations to Western Kentucky University that was awarded the \$100 prize for winning the **NSSLHA picture/Video Social Media Competition**. They had a grand total of 1,224 votes by the deadline! Well done and congratulations!



Congratulations to the University of Louisville for bringing home the coveted **Golden Brain** for at least another year! 2024 makes this the sixth year in a row that the University of Louisville has won the Praxis Competition! Impressive. Congratulations, Cards! 

Advocacy Updates

First, the stipend for those with their CCCs is in the Senate budget and will remain in the final budget!



Second, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist spoke to the Banking and Insurance Committee of the Kentucky House of Representatives to support Senate Bill 111 (an act related

to coverage for the treatment of stuttering). SB111 passed committee and will now head to the House floor for a vote. As the Kentucky legislative session continues, we ask that you contact your legislators in the House and ask them to support SB111. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist was joined

by his former SLP, Meg Shake, and KSHA's CoA (SLP), Katie Maddy. 

Student Advocacy Training/Day

Tiana Hinkle



Attending the Student Advocacy Training/Day was a profound and transformative experience that underscored the critical importance of advocacy within our field of study. This event brought together a diverse group of 18 students, each nominated by faculty from prestigious colleges across Kentucky including WKU, ECU, UK, U of L, and Murray State. This was made possible in part by an ASHA Advocacy grant. The opportunity to participate in this event was truly exceptional and provided a platform for understanding the significance of advocacy in shaping our academic pursuits and professional endeavors.



The first day of the event was dedicated to an intensive advocacy training session led by esteemed


figures in the field, including KSHA President Robyn Wahl, PAC Chair Kellie Ellis, and lobbyist Kate Wood Hall. This session was invaluable, providing comprehensive insights into the essence of advocacy, its impact on our field, and the crucial role it plays in advancing our professional interests. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, we gained a deeper understanding of how advocacy shapes policies and drives positive change within our community. This experience was incredibly valuable as it provided a firsthand understanding of the components involved in advocacy within our field of study.

The following day, we traveled to the state capital building for the Tri-Alliance rally held in the House chambers. We had the privilege of hearing from speakers such as Representatives Kim Moser, Rebecca Raymer, Walker Thomas, and Deanna Frazier-Gordon. Their impassioned speeches resonated deeply, highlighting the power of advocacy in amplifying our voices and effecting meaningful change at the legislative level.

Throughout the day, university groups engaged in meetings with representatives and senators, advocating for their support of Senate Bill 111. These interactions were pivotal, allowing us to directly communicate our concerns and advocate for this bill that would positively impact our profession and the individuals we serve. I was able to open and share a

personal story about my nephew who stuttered that would allow senators and representatives to understand how impactful passing this bill could be, not only for therapists, but for the families involved.



Participating in this event was an educational experience and a deeply inspiring one. It reaffirmed my belief in the power of advocacy and instilled in me a renewed sense of purpose. It offered me a glimpse of the potential role I can play in shaping policies and advocating for the needs of our profession in the future. As future professionals, it is imperative that we become advocates for our field ensuring that the voices of those we serve are heard. The Student Advocacy Training/Day served as a catalyst for this commitment, equipping us with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to drive positive change within our state. Having this information in my back pocket can help me once I begin my career as a speech-language pathologist in the Commonwealth. 

Connect With KSHA

Find Us Online



Visit the KSHA website, www.ksha.info, and make sure your KSHA membership is up to date. Log on to the Member Center of the website, enter your last name and your member number. Once logged in, you are able to edit your membership information, such as mailing address, email address, professional information, and more.

The Member Center also gives you access to renew your membership, register for an event at the member discounted rate, search for a member, access member-only resources, and print your membership card.

You can always check out the current and past editions of the **KSHA Communicator** online at <http://ksha.info/index.php/communicator>.

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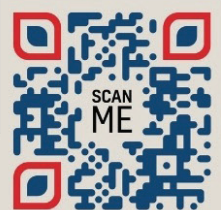
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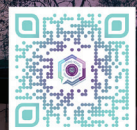
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