

The
KSHA
Communicator

A publication of the
Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing
Association



Convention 2021: It's a Wrap
20/20 Vision
KSHA Honors and Awards



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Cover Photo from Dr. Leigh Anne Roden includes all attendees from one of the virtual rooms at Convention.

Convention 2021: It's a Wrap!

*Bethany Berry, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
KSHA President*



We went with you to the kitchen while you made dinner for your family. We enjoyed it as your children played in the background. We

hung out with you on your morning and afternoon commute and we smiled as your pets took their rightful place on your keyboard. I don't know about you, but I never expected to have so much fun learning from home (or work). Indeed, the sessions were informative and the speakers were inspiring. Special events such as the Golden Brain and the Awards Ceremony brought about a hint of connectedness familiar to years past.

More than 900 attendees made their way through the poster competition and sessions and earned more continuing education hours than ever before from both live and on-demand offerings. We appreciated your patience as we worked through the technical challenges that came with the territory of a fully Virtual Convention.

While we have grown and learned so much (in more ways than one), I know we are all eager to get back to some semblance of normalcy. Next year, we will plan to see you in Louisville, Kentucky for our 65th Annual KSHA Convention! 

[See pages 4-5 for a Convention photo gallery.]



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>.

Follow KSHA on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kyspeech>, Instagram at [kshakyspeech](https://www.instagram.com/kshakyspeech) and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KYSPEECH>.



KSHA Convention 2021 Wrap-Up

Tommy Evans, AuD, CCC-A and Leigh Anne Roden, PhD, CCC-SLP
KSHA Convention Chairs



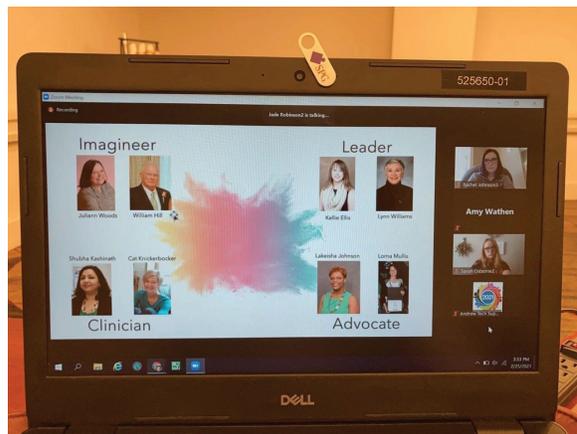
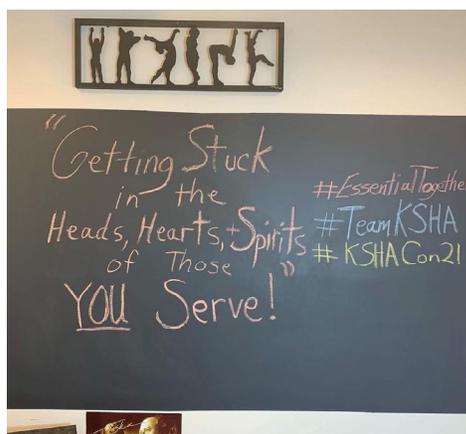
The Convention Committee would like to thank everyone

involved in helping to organize and execute a tremendous 2021 KSHA Convention. Our hopes were to have an in-person event but our focus had to change to a virtual option due to safety concerns from the COVID-19 pandemic. There were even concerns we would not be able to pull off Convention this year. However, everyone stepped up to make this year's Convention one of the most successful to date, despite the challenges. That credit goes to all of our members who virtually attended

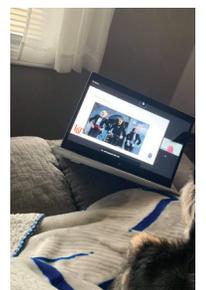
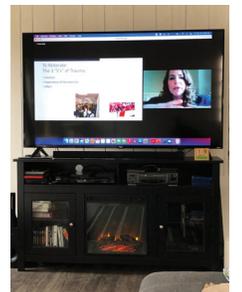
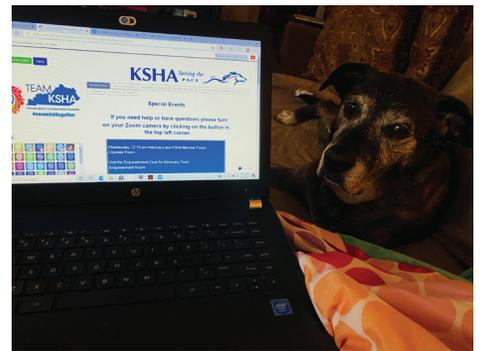
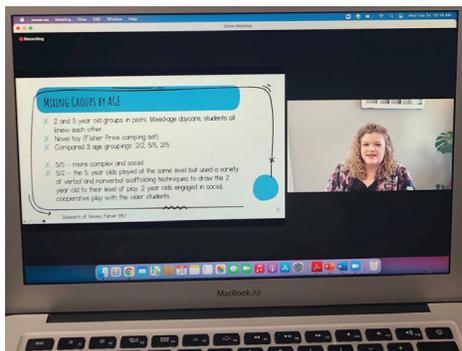
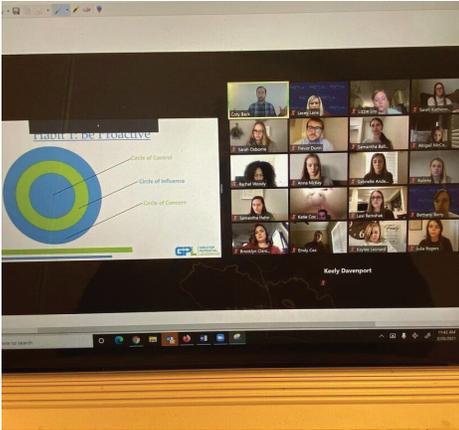
and to our presenters who were up to the challenge to engage and educate their audiences remotely. The commitment to this year's Convention really has demonstrated how strong and resilient our professionals are across the commonwealth and how we were able to rally around one another during such a difficult time. Many organizations across the country opted out of hosting Conventions this year, but not KSHA! This year we had the highest amount of out-of-state attendees as well and we were able to deliver high quality continuing education across the continuum of audiology and speech-language pathology topics. We were also able to find engaging keynote speakers in

Shari Robertson and Joel Katte to help inspire us. Thus far we have received very positive reviews from this year's Convention, despite not being able to network in-person. KSHA really appreciates your attendance at Convention, your dedication to the professions, and your commitment to excellence. Thank you for your continued resilience, flexibility, and passion. Thank you to all who helped to make the 2021 KSHA Convention a success. This year we honestly took lemons and made them into lemonade. We could not have done it without you! #essentialtogether #TeamKSHA. 

Views from KSHA Convention 2021



Views from KSHA Convention 2021



Senate Bill 47

Bethany A. Berry, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
KSHA President

The Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Compact legislation (Senate Bill 47) passed through the Senate unopposed, through the House Licensing and Occupations Committee, and then passed through the House 93-0. Senator Rick Girdler (Somerset), the sponsor of Senate Bill 47, and Representative Walker Thomas (Hopkinsville) have been instrumental in getting the bill to this point.

Kentucky has become the eighth state in the Interstate Compact. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Executive Council members both past and present who have advocated for this bill, our Lobbyist, Kate Wood Hall, who has worked tirelessly to move it forward, and for the legislators who have voted in favor of this critical legislation.

We are excited for what this means for our members across the state as we continue to set the PACE for our profession!

On Behalf of KSHA to our Lifetime Members

Bethany Berry, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
KSHA President



To become a Lifetime Member of KSHA, an individual must be a full member of KSHA for 20 consecutive years and be fully retired from the profession. Each potential candidate is

determined eligible only after a review of application, a recommendation by the Honors and Awards Chair and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Executive Council.

The Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association would like to honor those individuals who have not only shown dedication to their profession but also

their loyalty to KSHA. We commend you for your service and longevity to the organization. Members of this elite group include:

- **Julie Bolling**
- **Kim Lawless**
- **Michelle King**
- **Peggy Keen**
- **Sandra Bell**
- **Mary Gregory**
- **Patricia Nelson**

On behalf of the Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association, we say: Thank you for your dedication, loyalty and membership. 



KSHA Wants to Hear From You

Mary Grace Starks, MS, CCC-SLP
KSHA Publications Chair



Speech-language pathologists and audiologists from across the Commonwealth, KSHA wants to hear from you! We want to share the amazing

things you are doing for yourselves (self-care, how you are staying organized) in addition to your clients, families and the profession. There are several ways you can share your story.

The first is by submitting a **Real Life Story**. Simply go to <https://ksha.info/index.php/communicator/#story> and complete the submission form. We want to celebrate you so please, let us know!

The second is to submit an article for possible publication in the bi-annual newsletter.



If interested in submitting an article, email the KSHA Publications Chair at kshapublicationschair@gmail.com by September 15 for your article to appear in the fall 2021 newsletter. KSHA looks forward to hearing from you! 

KSHA 2021 Poster Competition Winners

Student Awards

1st Place — *Telepractice in Auditory-Verbal Therapy: Characteristics of Pediatric Patient, Caregiver, and Provider Vocal Interaction* presented by Abigail Betts

2nd Place — *Identifying Active Ingredients in Voice Therapy Protocols* presented by Maria Bane

3rd Place — *A Qualitative Content Analysis of Telepractice Tweets During COVID-19* presented by Kristen Weidner

Professional Awards

Clinical Research — *School Poverty Impact on Kindergartners' Vocabulary, Syntax and Fast-Mapping Performance* presented by Brian Weiler

Inter-professional Practice — *Attention in Deaf Children During Remote and In-Person Auditory Intervention* presented by Kaelin Kinney



KSHA's Advocacy Network (iKAN)

Kathleen Carrillo, MS, CCC-SLP
Vice-President of Healthcare



The Kentucky Advocacy Network (iKAN) is a year-long program for KSHA members who are looking to develop and improve their leadership and

advocacy skills. The program engages participants to help them learn the skills that can help them give back to the profession at local, state and national levels. Members get to take part in four group meetings throughout the year to brainstorm their advocacy ideas and develop an action plan to work towards their objectives. Participants can choose to work on smaller individual action plans, but many of the cohorts have chosen to work on a unified action plan where they are all working towards a collective goal. The iKAN program allows it's participants to develop a lifelong professional network, and work to influence policies, programs and services. KSHA begins the search for iKAN applicants each fall. Please visit Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association » iKAN (ksha.info) if you would like to learn more or apply for the next cohort.

I would like to take this time to recognize the 2020 iKAN cohort. This cohort had a unique experience because in the middle of their cohort year, we entered into the global pandemic. This shifted their original advocacy focus as they discussed the major concerns that were happening in their workplaces as the pandemic wreaked havoc on our nation. The cohort decided to take on the challenge of finding better ways to communicate while wearing a mask as their advocacy platform. They created a visually stunning infographic with ways to improve communication while wearing a mask. Their infographic was shared across the KSHA social media pages and will be added to the KSHA advocacy tool kit

on the KSHA website. I would like to recognize the following participants of the 2020 iKAN network.

2020 iKAN Members

- Aimee Sayre
- Ciera Mills
- Sunni Shepherd
- Kacey Hulker
- Allison Brown
- Sue Burris
- Amber Forston

- Angela Campbell
- Bernadette Coty
- Melissa Zoppetti
- Erin Delancey

If you feel like the iKAN program is something that you would be interested in, participating in or if you would like additional information, please feel free to reach out to myself at ksha.vphealthcare@gmail.com or Laura Stone, the KSHA vice president of schools at ksha.vpschools@gmail.com. 



COMMUNICATION + MASKS

Improve Your Communication While Wearing a Face Covering

Challenges

- MASKS MUFFLE THE SOUND OF OUR VOICE, MAKING SPEECH MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.
- MASKS HIDE OUR LIPS AND MANY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, WHICH AID IN UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE ARE HEARING.

Impact

COMMUNICATING WHILE MASK-WEARING CAN BE VERY FRUSTRATING, ESPECIALLY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH COMMUNICATION AND HEARING DISORDERS.

Tips for Improving Communication

- FACE YOUR PARTNER AND ENSURE YOU HAVE THEIR ATTENTION.
- TALK SLIGHTLY LOUDER AND SLOWER THAN NORMALLY.
- USE YOUR HANDS AND BODY LANGUAGE.
- ELIMINATE AS MUCH BACKGROUND NOISE AS POSSIBLE.
- CONSIDER WEARING A CLEAR FACE COVERING, IF POSSIBLE.

BE PATIENT!
BE MINDFUL!
BE ADAPTABLE!
BE LOUD AND CLEAR!

WHEN IN DOUBT... ASK!
CONFIRM THAT YOUR MESSAGE HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD.

KSHA

THE KENTUCKY SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION REPRESENTS OVER 1,600 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS ACROSS KENTUCKY. OUR VISION? TO BE A COMMONWEALTH WHERE ALL VOICES ARE HEARD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTPS://KSHA.INFO/](https://ksha.info/)

Golden Brain



Each KSHA Convention, members from each Kentucky university participate in the Golden Brain Competition. Each team answers questions from the Praxis. Congratulations to the University of Louisville on their second consecutive win in the Golden Brain competition. Left to right: Claire Sedlar, Katie Weber, Ashley Gallinaro, and Sara Ross. Second place went to Eastern Kentucky University. These participants included: Logan Ellis, Megan Turner, Katelynn Johnson and Charlotte Herald. Third place went to Murray State University. These participants included: Lindsay Crafton, Kaylee Oakley, Lexi Bergman and Taylor Walker. A big thank you to each of this year's competitors! 🐾

Why Be An SLP/AUD Video Contest



Kentucky NSSLHA chapters were asked to submit a video describing **Why be an SLP/AUD?** Videos were submitted by the NSSLHA chapters at Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University. Congratulations to the NSSLHA chapter at Western Kentucky University for winning the social media competitions with 695 likes (with more than 5,200 total views)! Second place went to the University of Kentucky. Third place went to Eastern Kentucky University. Fourth place went to Murray State University. Thank you to our participating schools for making this yet another fun and spirited competition! 🐾

20/20 Vision

Moriah Frederick



"Moriah, due to your condition, becoming an optometrist would be very difficult." My 17-year-old self sat in my optometrist's office with foggy bifocals

on as I fought back tears. At an early age, I was diagnosed as legally blind. It was not degenerative; however, my vision could not be corrected with glasses or contacts. The costly bifocals were specially designed for driving only. It was the summer before starting my first semester at Western Kentucky University (WKU). I had my heart set on the career path of optometry. I'd always considered myself an empath and, more than anything, I wanted to help individuals who had similar conditions as myself. Serving individuals, especially children with various and different abilities, was always something my heart was drawn toward. As I sat there with my mind racing he continued to discuss how strenuous biology classes were. My low vision would be a burden throughout the entirety of my career if I did choose to pursue in the long run. The plans I had for myself suddenly had to be changed and I felt my dream was crushed. I was devastated. As a Type A personality, I have always had ambition and put thoughts to action, but it was time to change the vision for myself.

In the second year of my undergraduate studies, I had already ruled out becoming a kindergarten teacher, counselor and music teacher. As I walked through Tate Page Hall I noticed a flyer near the door. It contained information for an undergraduate degree in communication science and disorders. The deadline to apply for the program

was exactly two weeks from the day I detached a small tab from the bottom of the flyer. The next several days I researched speech-language pathology. I decided to set up an observation with a speech-language pathologist within a school system to get a more realistic idea of the profession. I was finally getting excited to start the journey of a different career path. The requirements to apply were prestigious. Only a certain number of students were accepted, GPA had to be at least a 3.0 (but was informed on average for the program it was around 3.5 or higher), and ACT scores were taken into consideration. Every day I found myself saying a prayer to receive some type of confirmation this was the path I was supposed to be on.

Weeks had passed and needless to say I had already determined I would have to restart all over again. The department had received a couple of phone calls followed by voicemails as well as an email from myself. I received an email a few days later stating I was waitlisted. My throat felt as if I had swallowed needles and my eyes began to swell. The word waitlisted resonated with me. I had been waiting for a while and felt stuck. What was my plan now? Did I start another vision? Did I wait to see how it played out? My life suddenly felt on hold yet again, waitlisted.

A week passed and I received a phone call and email confirming I was accepted into the program. My heart leaped with joy and finally my journey was resumed.

The beginning of the program was a rough start. I learned not only about communication sciences and disorders, but about myself and how to advocate. I started off not so well in my phonetics class due to my vision impairment. Auditorily I knew what was being said, but communicating via symbols was

impossible. The symbols were small and even in the front seat of class, I struggled. My American Sign Language class was traumatizing. Talking was not tolerated throughout the entirety of the class. I could only make out approximations of signs due to my low vision, and I didn't know how to communicate for help. I consider myself an auditory learner so this was a learning curve. Suddenly I was having to depend on my vision in order to pass these classes. Instead of advocating and communicating the difficulties I was having, I faked it. After the first couple of quizzes and non-stop internal struggles, I built up the courage to talk to my professors. They were more than happy to make accommodations, but for some reason I felt as if I had already failed. In my head I had associated asking and needing help was a sign of failure.

Fast forward two years later to 2015. After many tears, countless hours of studying, headaches, feelings of disappointment and feelings of extreme accomplishments, it was time to apply for a master's program in speech-language pathology. All I wanted was to be accepted. This was the next step. I applied to WKU and Murray State University (MSU) in hopes one would accept me. Similar to the undergraduate program, the master's level was even more prestigious. Peers were receiving letters of acceptance each day. It was graduation day, and I had not received an acceptance letter. As I walked the line and received my diploma for my bachelor's degree my mind was unsettled. I deflected any conversation about graduate school with friends or family and battled with feelings of failure on a day I should have been rejoicing and thanking the Lord for bringing me through.

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20/20 Vision

Continued From Page 10

I wallowed in self pity for a few days, but decided it was time to rework the vision. I would take a year off, reapply the next year for my master's, and work for a year in a job where I could apply the skills I learned with my bachelor's degree. I accepted a teaching assistant position in a special education classroom at T. C. Cherry Elementary. Within the first couple of days, my knowledge of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Down syndrome, behavior management, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), and visual schedules grew immensely. I had absolutely fallen in love with the students as well as the learning opportunity I was given. As I drove home from work I noticed I had a missed call and voicemail from a professor named Dr. Dressler. I called back and stated my name. "Moriah, I know this is late notice and it's your decision, but you've been accepted into WKU's master's program for speech-language pathology." My heart rate skyrocketed. I pulled my car over and sat speechless. Classes started in two

weeks, I didn't have any textbooks, I just started a new job, and the fear of being the "dumb" one in the class crept back in. This was what I had been praying for. After asking several questions I accepted the offer and suddenly the next two weeks became a whirlwind.

I walked into the first day of orientation seeing some new and old faces. I struggled with the emotion of wondering if I was deserving or good enough to be accepted. The next two years would mold and build me into the clinician I am today. I finished my master's with a 4.0 GPA to prove to myself I could do it and was worthy of being accepted. I learned not only self advocacy, but how to be the very best advocate for my clients. I learned living with an impairment doesn't define you, it's just a piece of who you are. The struggles and emotions I was faced with made me be able to sympathize and empathize on a more personal level with clients and their families. It's a story I wouldn't change for the world.

I have been blessed to work in my dream setting of a pediatric clinic for almost four years at The Kid SpOt Center. I've also had the opportunity to not only use my skills as a clinician, but as a children's minister and on missions to Ecuador and Kenya. I'm learning I love to teach and supervise graduate clinicians because I can relate to the journey they are on. My journey and story to become an SLP may look different than others. Up until this point I had not shared my story. During a time of uncertainty and a heavy burdened world, I feel student clinicians, treating therapists and all professionals should be reassured they are not alone in the struggles this job possesses. Every story matters and makes an impact. My vision can be blurry and occasionally difficult to cope with. The beginning of my journey started similarly to my eyesight, which is 20/100. If 2020 has taught me anything it's I am thankful for the experiences which shaped me. Everything is becoming crystal clear with 20/20 vision. 

Real Life Stories



Recognizing a milestone in your life or in the life of someone close to you? Share a *Real Life Story* by completing the online

submission form at <https://ksha.info/index.php/communicator/#story>.

At the discretion of the publications chair, *Real Life Stories* may be published in the *Communicator*, on the website or in marketing material.

Birth Announcement

Addison Ruth Berry, born September 10, 2020, at 8:18 am weighing 7 pounds 13 ounces to Joe and Bethany Berry. She joins big brother, Connor and is loved by so many. 



KSHA Honors and Awards

Michele Zaparanick-Brown, MA, CCC-SLP
KSHA Honors and Awards Chair



Certificate of Appreciation

- Mr. Mike Rice
- Ms. Jaime Rice
- Ms. Shirl Duncan

Honors of the Association

- Dr. Stephanie Schaaf

KSHA-ASHF Clinical Achievement Award

- Dr. Robert Marshall

Johanna B. Hancock Award

- Dr. Leigh Anne Roden

PACEsetter Award

- Ms. Micha Craig, Bath County Schools

Free 2021 ASHA Registration

- Rachel Benavidez 

Stanley and Steckol Award Winners



Elizabeth Medlock is the recipient of the 2021 Steckol Memorial Fund Scholarship. She is a second year graduate student at the University of Louisville working towards her doctorate in audiology. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in linguistics and a minor in global health from the University of

Georgia. Elizabeth is a student liaison for the Kentucky Academy of Audiology and previously served as the secretary of the Student Academy of Audiology Louisville Chapter. She is gaining her clinical experience at the University of Louisville Center for Voice Care, Norton Children's Hospital, Novak Center for Children's Health and the University of Louisville Healthcare Outpatient Center. She has advanced proficiency in American Sign Language and facilitates free hearing screenings at local health fairs and elementary schools. In her scholarship essay, Elizabeth wrote, "I am a people person who loves to teach others about audiology. Whether it's an elderly member at the country club who is having difficulty hearing or a family member who is suffering from vertigo, I love to help educate on audiologic topics in any way I can. I also believe the power of connection is one of life's biggest gifts." She also has her own audiology Instagram (@earswithelizabeth) where she has been able to connect patients with resources such as music playlists to help with auditory rehabilitation post cochlear implantation. Her clinical supervisor, Dr. Brittany Kyzer, stated, "I have seen firsthand Elizabeth's dedication to spending numerous hours each week to her full-time graduate career. She shows abundant clinical ambition and often takes initiative to gain knowledge of clinical and classroom skills in regards to all aspects of audiology. Elizabeth always arrives to clinic and class very prepared and eager to learn. Individuals of all ages adore her enthusiastic personality." After graduation, Elizabeth hopes to primarily serve the geriatric population and open her own private practice.



Kristen Weidner is the recipient of the 2021 Stanley Memorial Fund Scholarship. She is currently attending the University of Kentucky where she is completing her doctorate degree in rehabilitation sciences. She previously received her master's degree in communication sciences and disorders and speech, language, hearing sciences from St. Cloud State University. While at St. Cloud, she was a co-founder of the AAC Support Group. For two years, Kristen also served as a Clinical Research Associate for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Furthermore, she is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences where she teaches two courses. She has presented at ASHA's national convention and KSHA's state convention and is a student member of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine as well as the National Rural Health Association. Kristen wrote, "In teaching, my philosophy is to develop lifelong learners by establishing a safe environment for students to learn and link lessons to everyday life. Similarly, I believe knowledge translation and access to evidence and education helps clinicians remain lifelong learners," and, "My work is driven by the idea that communication is a human right ... I believe all individuals with communication disorders, regardless of where they live, should have access to rehabilitation services. My research interests, rural health and telehealth, revolve around increasing access to care." Dr. Joneen Lowman said, "Academically, Kristen is driven, intellectually curious and a self-starter. She has strengthened her research skills with multiple methodological courses in both qualitative and quantitative approaches. She has readily taken advantage of learning opportunities such as consultation and observation with the University of Kentucky TeleCare and the Center for Excellence in Rural Health. Kristen continues to demonstrate excellent work as she progresses through the PhD program ... She is committed to interdisciplinary collaboration while advocating for speech-language pathology services." Following graduation, Kristen plans to become a professor at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Spring Into Diversity

*Kimmerly Harrell, PhD, CCC-SLP
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair*



I have been a speech-language pathologist for more than 15 years. I attended Tennessee State University for my bachelor's, the University of Mississippi for my

master's (both in communication sciences and disorders (CSD)), Lincoln Memorial University for my specialist in curriculum and instruction and the University of Central Florida for my doctorate in CSD. I consider speech-language pathology to be a second career for me because I did not go straight to graduate school after completing my bachelor's degree. I started off working for the early intervention program for the state of Tennessee as a service coordinator. I then ended up in Atlanta, Georgia, working as a mental health and disability coordinator for Head Start. All those experiences confirmed that I needed to go back and pursue my master's degree in speech-language pathology. I have had the opportunity to work in private practice, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, home health, hospitals and long-term acute care facilities. However, I found my true calling working in the schools, which is where I spent most of my career. When I began working in the schools, my first assignment was at a middle school. Throughout the years I would work at several elementary schools, but I always seemed to have a middle and/or high school caseload as well. This is where my passion for adolescent language and literacy began, particularly with culturally and

linguistically diverse (CLD) students. Working in the schools in Georgia and Florida provided insight into the struggles of adolescents when it came to language and literacy. That insight led me to wanting to pursue my doctorate with a particular focus on language and literacy in school age children. I absolutely love our profession and the flexibility and opportunities we have to provide services across the lifespan. For the last three years I have served on the board of Travel and GIVE which is a 501(c)(3) organization that combines traveling with addressing the needs of people with disabilities across the world through advocacy and education. Working with this organization has allowed me to use my expertise as a speech-language pathologist to provide therapy to children in Haiti and Kenya, as well as professional development and training to the caregivers who serve the children.

I am excited to be a part of the department at the University of Louisville where I can not only collaborate with my colleagues, but also collaborate with the community and Jefferson County Public Schools. I have extensive history of working with local school systems while in Florida and at my previous academic institution in Louisiana. I am looking forward to working with different stakeholders to provide impacting experiences for our graduate students and for the communities we will be working with. I am honored to be able to serve as chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for

KSHA. I believe that 2020 showed some people what many of us have known for years, and that is systemic racism is not a myth. Our country is not where it needs to be when it comes to equality and equity for people of color. Even when you look at our profession it's blatantly obvious that it does not reflect the culturally and linguistically diverse populations we serve. I do believe that everyone can finally acknowledge that there is work to be done and it needs to involve some more than others. I would like to see our Association become a model of what diversity, equity and inclusion looks like within the field of speech-language pathology and audiology. I commend KSHA for recognizing the need and establishing this committee. The work of diversity, equity and inclusion is not just the job of one committee or one person, it's everyone's responsibility. Whether we are faculty members, researchers, clinicians, supervisors or students, we must take a stand to dismantle the systems of oppression. I, along with my committee members, will work hard to make sure that we promote diverse representation throughout KSHA as well as help recruit underrepresented students to our profession. We will also work to bring continuing education opportunities to the Association that are related to working with culturally and linguistically diverse populations. I have some wonderful volunteers on the committee who are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion and we welcome all who are ready to be a part of the solution! 

In Memoriam – Dr. Richard Dressler



Dr. Richard “Dick” Dressler was known by students, faculty, staff and peers as a brilliant teacher, mentor, and friend. His laid-back aura could calm the masses and continually reminded all that the stressors in life were “... not that big of a deal.” His wit was unmatched and surfaced at the most perfect of moments. He had an undying love for academia, The Beatles, traveling the world, politics and football. He never missed a moment to discuss any of those things when the opportunity presented itself.

On December 8, 2020, with heavy hearts, Dr. Dressler’s family, friends, members of Western Kentucky University (WKU) and the Communication Sciences and Disorders community said goodbye to the spirited personality that had been loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dr. Dressler was an associate professor and Department Chair in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. He had graced WKU with his knowledge since 2001 and taught courses in the areas of neurophysiology of speech and language, motor speech disorders and speech science. With more than 20 years of experience as a speech-language pathologist in acute medical settings, Dr. Dressler authored the *Language Activity Resource Kit (LARK)*, *LARK Workbook* and was the co-author of the LARK Software program. As technology evolved, he produced the iRecognize app to help individuals with aphasia. He also served on the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Dr. Dressler published articles related to conversational coding systems, sound disorders associated with aphasia, acoustic measures of spasmodic dysphonia, conversational repairs in speakers with aphasia, and dehydration in nursing home patients. He conducted cooperative research with the brain injury unit at the Fort Campbell Army Base and started to become actively involved in teletherapy research for individuals in rural areas.

As a professor, he was intentional in bridging the gap between learning information in class and textbooks with practical application of the information to the clinical setting. His classes were designed to engage students in both applying knowledge to a skill based outcome and using group projects to enhance team

building skills. His student-centered focus was always a priority driven by the question, “How can this help our students?”

As a colleague, he was encouraging and offered sound advice in even the most stressful moments. He was skilled remaining solution-focused no matter what issue was presented. Known for his wit, Dr. Dressler often lightened situations with a bright sense of humor.

As a friend, he shared interesting (and always entertaining) stories about his global adventures, spending time with family and visiting his children and grandchildren whom he loved dearly. Always aware and in tune with others, Dr. Dressler routinely commented or questioned when he noticed something different about a colleague. Dr. Dressler reminded everyone of what was really important in life.

WKU has a motto which says, “The Spirit Makes the Master.” Dr. Dressler’s spirit has left an indelible mark on the faculty, staff and students in the WKU CSD Department. His legacy will continue to resonate through the CSD/SLP programs and will surely live on through all those he encountered.

“Everything will be ok in the end. If it’s not okay, it’s not the end.”- John Lennon 