

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE,
CONNECTION, AND GROWTH IN THE
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
COMMUNITY**

**NOVEMBER
2025**

**FALL
TO
JOY**

Featuring

Convention Highlights & Updates

Awards Ceremony Announcements

SLPA Spotlight Features

MUSC Accreditation Achievement

and so much more!

**SOUTH CAROLINA
SPEECH LANGUAGE
HEARING ASSOCIATION**

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IN TOUCH

**FALL EDITION
November 2025**

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President's message:

Jessica Berry, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dear Colleagues,

What Are You Thankful For?

As we enter this season of gratitude, I want to pause and say thank you. Your SCSHA membership reflects a commitment not only to your professional growth but also to the individuals and communities you serve across South Carolina. We are truly grateful for the work you do each day.

Community is at the heart of SCSHA. It offers advocacy, education, networking, and service opportunities that strengthen us all. This month has already brought important advocacy moments, including our efforts surrounding 92507. A special thank you to Kelly, our VP of Government Affairs, for leading that charge on behalf of SLPs across the state. It's also brought lots of fun with a sold out fitness fundraiser at Hylo Fitness in Summerville which raised money for the Sharonda Coleman Singleton Scholarship, lead by our VP of membership and engagement, Ashley Scott.

I invite you to join us on November 16 at 11:30 a.m. for our virtual members-only meeting. We will share updates, celebrate successes, and hear from you, our valued members.

As we reflect on what we are thankful for, I encourage you to take three actions:

1. RSVP for the members-only meeting.
2. Nominate a deserving SLP or student for an award or scholarship.
3. Consider serving on the SCSHA Board as the slate for our upcoming election is being developed now.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. It is our members who make the difference.

With gratitude,
Jessica Berry, PhD, CCC-SLP
President, South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Email | Drjberry15@gmail.com



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SCSHA CONVENTION

Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Advocacy in Action



22-24 JANUARY 2026

**COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN
CONVENTION CENTER**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**BOOK YOUR HOTEL AT A DISCOUNTED RATE
NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 22!**

Please note: last year, we sold out of rooms several weeks in advance of the block closing date, so book early!



FEATURED SPEAKER

Dr. Megan Israelsen-Augenstein

Assistant Professor at West Virginia University

Featured speaker Dr. Megan Israelsen-Augenstein, Assistant Professor at West Virginia University, will bring her passion for bridging research and practice to two engaging sessions on narrative instruction.

A national and international presenter, Dr. Israelsen-Augenstein's work focuses on developmental language disorder (DLD), literacy-based interventions, and innovative classroom practices that help every child find their voice through storytelling. Her research is supported by the NIH and the West Virginia Department of Education, and she leads statewide efforts to implement evidence-based oral language instruction.

In her first session, Dr. Israelsen-Augenstein dives into eight evidence-based strategies that use oral narrative instruction to strengthen reading comprehension—the fifth pillar of the science of reading.

Her second session takes participants behind the research, exploring how whole-classroom narrative instruction can support more students, especially in high-need and high-caseload settings. Whether you're an educator, clinician, or researcher, you'll leave with practical tools, new insights, and inspiration to bring the power of stories into your daily practice.

**Have you been over to visit our
new website???**

NEW WEBSITE *launch*



Current SCSHA members can login by using the “reset password” feature on the member login page on www.scsha.co.

Your username is the email you use for SCSHA. Need help?
Email us at SCSHAed@gmail.com if you have any difficulty.

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A message from President-Elect
Rebekah Wada Ph.D., CCC-SLP



2026

SCSHA CONVENTION

Become a Sponsor!
2026
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GAIN VISIBILITY

**CONNECT WITH
PROFESSIONALS**

**MAKE A
LASTING IMPRESSION**

**VALUABLE EXPOSURE
TO HUNDREDS OF ENGAGED
ATTENDEES**

**HIGHLIGHT YOUR
PRODUCTS, SERVICES,
OR INITIATIVES!**

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OPPORTUNITIES**

**Secure Your Spot
TODAY!**

**PLEASE VISIT
THIS  Link**

**REVIEW
SPONSORSHIP/EXHIBIT
OPPORTUNITIES!**

*Celebrating 10
years of*
**SCSHA
G•E•M•S!**

G *Grace*

E *Empowerment*

M *Motivation*

*Refueling
the
SLP*

This January, the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association (SCSHA) proudly celebrates a decade of G•E•M•s. Grace, Empowerment, and Motivation. What began ten years ago as an initiative to promote the health and wellness of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and to honor the legacy of Sharonda Coleman-Singleton has grown into a powerful tradition of inspiration, connection, and renewal.

Through the years, SCSHA G•E•M•s has touched countless lives by creating a space where SLPs can pause, refocus, and recharge both personally and professionally. Even more meaningfully, all registration fees directly support the Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Scholarship, ensuring that her spirit of excellence, compassion, and dedication continues to uplift future professionals in our field.

Over the past two years, we've re-envisioned and revitalized the G•E•M•s experience to reflect the evolving needs of today's SLPs, expanding its reach and deepening its impact. This year's celebration will be nothing short of extraordinary. Every registered participant will receive a beautifully jeweled name tag, a radiant keepsake symbolizing the strength, brilliance, and resilience that shine within every SLP.

Join us this January as we celebrate 10 years of G•E•M•s—a movement of restoration, reconnection, and renewal! Come be uplifted and inspired through powerful messages, heartfelt connections, and a community that celebrates your purpose and passion. Then, keep the celebration going Thursday evening with the Emerald Southern Soul Steppers Line Dance Team for a night of joy, movement, and fellowship as we honor a decade of growth, grace, and empowerment together!

With gratitude and excitement,
Dr. Jacqueline Jones-Brown & Shirlain Darby
Co-Coordinators, SCSHA G•E•M•s Initiative



A MESSAGE FROM
KELLY CALDWELL MA, MS, CCC-SLP
VP OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MONTHLY PROVIDER

CHATS

NOVEMBER 25 @ 7:30PM

DECEMBER 30 @ 7:30PM

Link in teams

***This is a SCSHA member only benefit**

SCSHA members community



SCSHA Advocacy Blog: A new benefit for members only!

Everything we do in
advocacy is on behalf
of SLPs and AUDs
in South Carolina

Visit
www.scscha.co

Sign In

select
"Advocacy
Blog:
Headlines-
Updates"



scsha



SLPS AND SLPAS:

A SUPERSTAR TEAM TO AMPLIFY IMPACT
AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES!



by AnnMarie C. Knight, Ph. D., CCC-SLP
Past President



ARE YOU AN SLP WHO FEELS LIKE EVERY MINUTE OF THEIR DAY IS STRETCHED TO ITS LIMIT?

Between treatment planning, juggling schedules, answering emails, documentation, evaluations, case management, and team meetings, it can feel like there are never enough hours in the day to focus on the clinical services that require your advanced training and clinical expertise. Why not consider enlisting the help of an SLP Assistant (SLPA)?

SLPAs are excellent support professionals who can help you, the SLP, practice at the top of your license, using your skills and expertise to their fullest potential. After completing the academic training, clinical experiences, and on-the-job training required for licensure, SLPAs perform tasks prescribed, directed, and supervised by a licensed, certified SLP ([ASHA](#)). SLPAs are not trained for independent practice.

HOW CAN AN SLPA HELP, YOU ASK?

SLPAs can support your clinical practice under direction and supervision as required by state licensure laws and regulations ([SC Chapter 115-2](#)) in the following ways:

PREPARE,
ORGANIZE,
CLEAN, AND
MAINTAIN
INVENTORY OF
CLINICAL
SUPPLIES
AND MATERIALS

ASSIST WITH
CLERICAL
TASKS SUCH AS
SCHEDULING,
PRINTING, AND
FILING

IMPLEMENT
THERAPY
PLANS
CREATED BY
THE SLP

COLLECT DATA
DURING
THERAPY
SESSIONS AND
DOCUMENT
PROGRESS

CONDUCT
SPEECH AND
LANGUAGE
SCREENINGS
WITHOUT
INTERPRETATION

ASSIST THE SLP
DURING AN
ASSESSMENT

ENSURE
EQUIPMENT IS
WORKING
AND
CALIBRATED

ASSIST THE SLP
WITH
RESEARCH,
MARKETING,
AND IN-SERVICE
TRAINING

Wow! Imagine how an SLP-SLPA team could work together to enhance
efficiency, teamwork, and service accessibility.



SLPS AND SLPAS:

A SUPERSTAR TEAM TO AMPLIFY IMPACT
AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES!

CONTINUED



by AnnMarie C. Knight, Ph. D., CCC-SLP
Past President

As you are working with an SLPA, it is important to keep in mind the supervision requirements and prohibited activities for SLPAs in South Carolina, which can be found in [Chapter 115-2](#) (F and K). It is particularly important to note that SLPAs are **NOT permitted to** participate in feeding or swallowing activities, treat medically fragile individuals, perform diagnostic tests or informal evaluations, interpret or elaborate on information provided in a report from an SLP, develop or modify a treatment plan, represent themselves as SLPs, or participate in interdisciplinary team conferences (IEP meetings, etc.) without the SLP present (this is not a comprehensive list of prohibited activities).

We are fortunate in South Carolina to have several excellent SLPA training programs that provide comprehensive academic and clinical training. These include the bachelor's degree programs at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, Columbia College in Columbia, SC, and South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, SC.

If you aren't already working with an SLPA, I hope you will consider adding a highly trained SLPA to your clinical team. Adding an SLPA to your team amplifies impact and improves outcomes. An SLPA is more than additional support, they are an investment in excellence!

**“ADDING AN SLPA TO
YOUR TEAM AMPLIFIES
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OUTCOMES. AN SLPA IS
MORE THAN ADDITIONAL
SUPPORT, THEY ARE AN
INVESTMENT IN
EXCELLENCE!”**

ANNMARIE C. KNIGHT, PH. D., CCC-SLP

* Please note: The information from [SC Chapter 115-2](#) was summarized for the purposes of this article. All state laws and regulations should be thoroughly reviewed BEFORE hiring an SLPA and allowing the SLPA to assist with service delivery. The supervising SLP retains full legal and ethical responsibility for services provided by an SLPA. State licensure laws/regulations supersede ASHA guidelines (e.g. SLPA Scope of Practice) for SLP/SLPA licensure and practice.

SLPA Membership Spotlight

In Touch Membership Spotlight:

Featuring **Levette McRae, B.A., SLPA**

By Levette McRae and Ashley Scott M.A., CCC-SLP

*“My mission is simple:
to advocate, to empower, and to represent”*

Levette McRae, a proud graduate of South Carolina State University with a degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology, has taken a unique path into the field of speech-language pathology. “I started out at Francis Marion University knowing I wanted to work in healthcare,” Levette shared. “But it wasn’t until I discovered the Department of Speech Pathology at SCSU that I found my purpose.”

Since then, Levette has worked across home health, outpatient clinics, and school settings, serving a diverse range of clients. “I entered this profession to stand for those who’ve been overlooked, to uplift communities, and to build a culture of inclusion and respect,” he explained. His commitment to advocacy extends well beyond therapy: he has served on the Junior Board of Apraxia Kids, contributed to the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing, and even written proclamations to state governors in support of awareness and equity. “My mission is simple: to advocate, to empower, and to represent.”

Rewarding Moments in Therapy

When asked what he finds most rewarding about working with clients, Levette highlighted the small but significant milestones. “The most rewarding moments are the small ones that mean everything, like when a client says their first word or finally reaches a goal they once thought was impossible. Seeing their smile, that pure joy of accomplishment, reminds me that communication isn’t just about speaking; it’s about being heard, being understood, and being free.”

A Unique Perspective as a Male SLPA

As a male SLPA, in a profession that is largely female, Levette brings a perspective shaped by determination and resilience. “As a male SLPA, and especially as a black male, I’ve learned that you often have to work ten times harder, not out of insecurity but out of determination to break barriers.



Representation matters. When young boys see someone who looks like them in this role, it opens their eyes to possibilities they may never have imagined.” He adds that his presence sparks conversations about inclusion and challenges stereotypes.

Looking Ahead

Levette shared his plans for the future: “I’ll be graduating in May 2026 with my MBA, then pursuing my Master’s in Communication Sciences and Disorders and eventually Law School. My dream is to open a multidisciplinary therapy practice that offers Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy, along with Feeding and ABA services. This will be a space centered on collaboration, advocacy, and representation.”

But above all, Levette hopes his story inspires others. “I want my story to remind others that where you come from doesn’t limit where you can go. As a young, African American man, from a single-parent household, I’m proof that perseverance and faith can take you anywhere. Never stop chasing your dreams, even when the world tells you to be quiet. Your voice has power.”

*“Never stop chasing your
dreams, even when the world
tells you to be quiet.
Your voice has power.”*



SOCSMA

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
IN OUR FIELD

Awards Ceremony

2026



AWARDS
SUBMISSION
LINK

*Click
Here*

AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED DURING THE ANNUAL CONVENTION AWARDS LUNCHEON IN JANUARY AT THE COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN
NOVEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 1, 2025

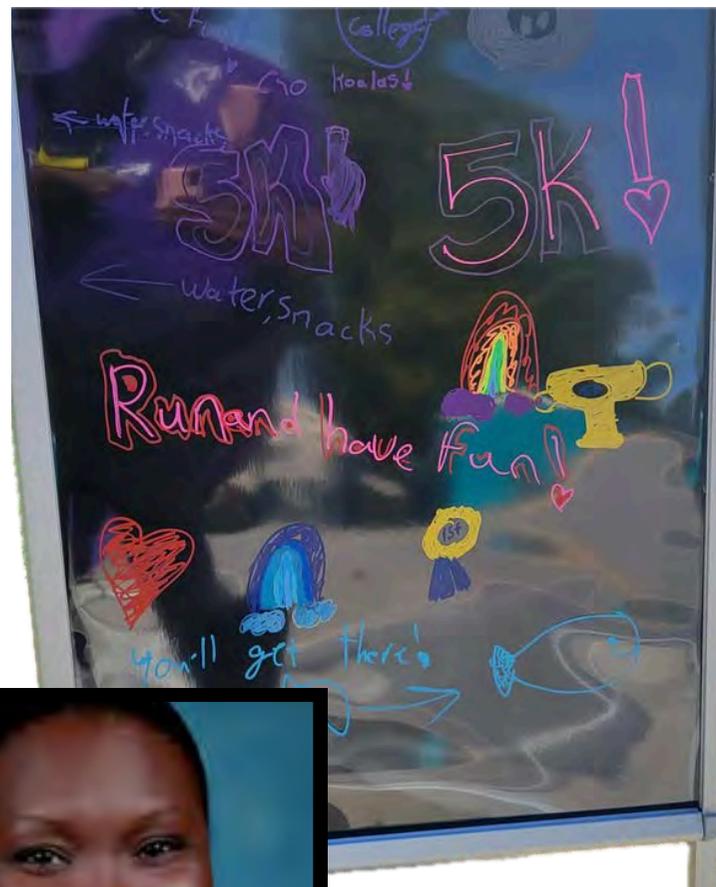


ON OCTOBER 4TH SLPs STATEWIDE JOINED THE 10TH ANNUAL SHARONDA COLEMAN-SINGLETON 5K.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT AN SLP GRADUATE STUDENT PURSUING THEIR MASTER'S DEGREE.

INCREDIBLE TURNOUT IN NORTH CHARLESTON AND AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE

HER LIGHT AND LEGACY CONTINUE TO SHINE.

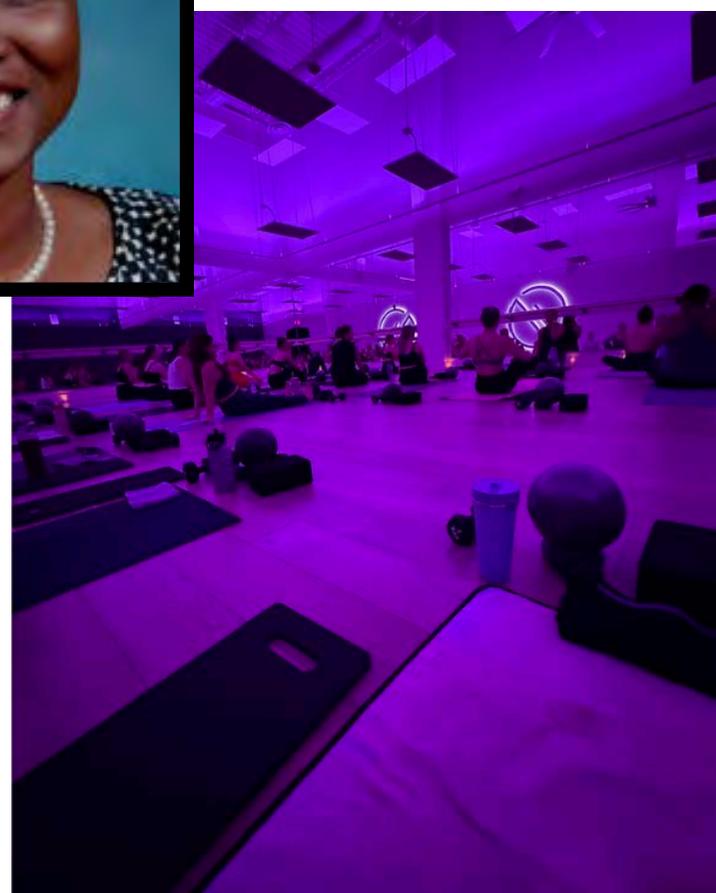
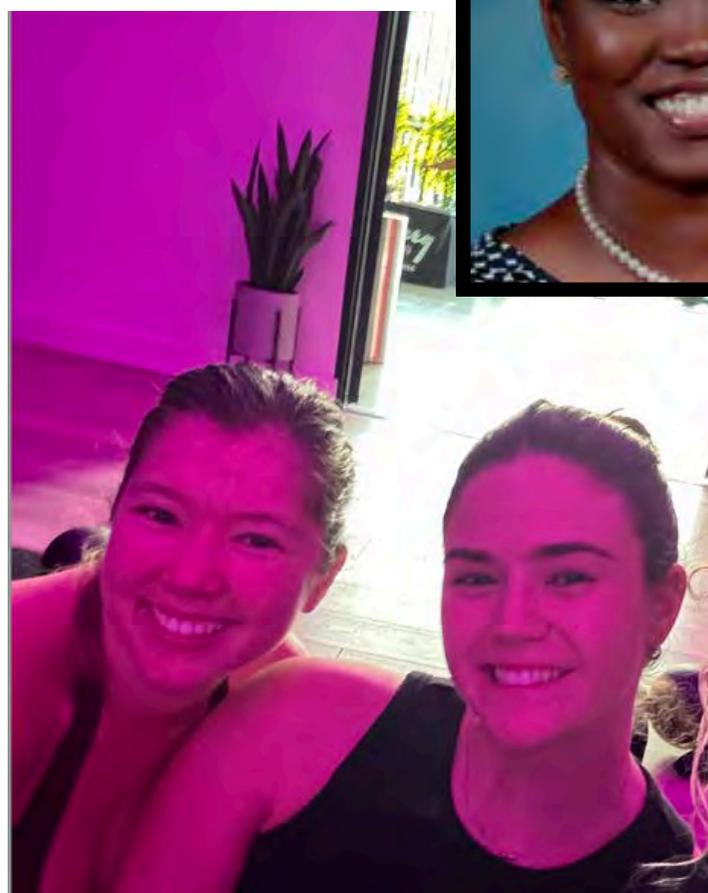




ON NOVEMBER 7TH SLPS SHOWED UP STRONG AT HYLO NEXTON FITNESS!

A SOLD-OUT CLASS, LOCAL VENDORS, AND THE BOMB BAR JOINED FORCES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SHARONDA COLEMAN-SINGLETON SCHOLARSHIP.

COMMUNITY, COLLABORATION, AND PURPOSE!





Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Scholarship

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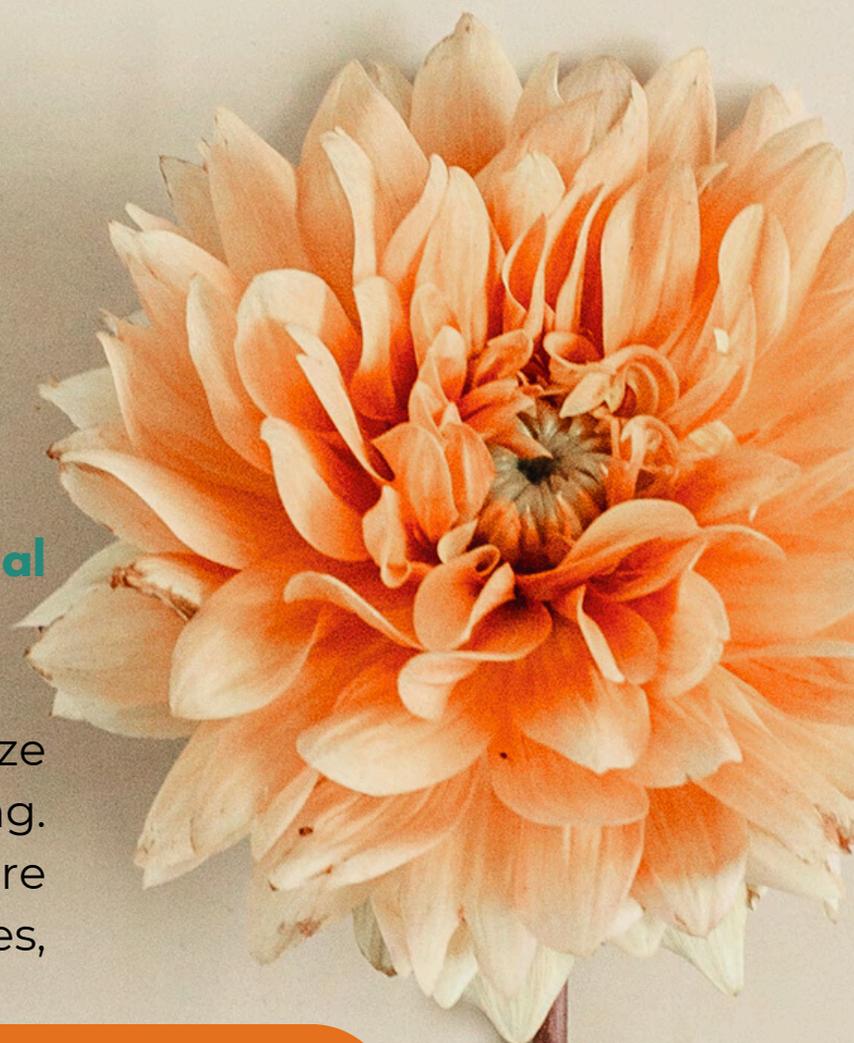


EXCITING UPDATE: FALL WORKSHOP MOVES TO SPRING!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We're thrilled to share an exciting update our annual SCSHA Fall Workshop is getting a seasonal refresh!

To better accommodate schedules and maximize participation, the workshop will now be held this spring. The new timing will allow us to offer even more engaging sessions, hands-on learning opportunities, and time to connect with colleagues across the state.



**The workshop
will include two
components**

First, Dr. Lori-Ann Ferraro will present an invited, one-hour session at the SCSHA convention focused on billing practices in SLP. *For SCSHA members who cannot attend the SCSHA convention in January, you will be able to watch a recorded presentation for **FREE**.*

Second, will be a three-hour synchronous (virtual) workshop that takes a deeper dive into the topic, offering practical strategies, real-world examples, and tools to support efficient and ethical billing practices.

**Stay tuned for details
about dates, location, and
registration coming soon!**

Lori-Ann Ferraro, PhD, CCC-SLP
Associate Professor
College of Health Professions
Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)





CHRISTINA PELATTI, PH.D., CCC-SLP
PRESIDENT ELECT-ELECT



BREAKING NEWS

MUSC'S SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM EARNS ACCREDITATION

Our program is designed with a strong focus on clinical training and real-world application. Students build a solid foundation in core knowledge early in the curriculum and then refine their skills through interactive coursework and diverse clinical rotations. While graduates are well-prepared to work across the full scope of speech-language pathology practice, the program places particular emphasis on medical speech-language pathology.

MUSC's program is built on a unique, competency-driven approach that integrates active learning with hands-on experience.

1 Integrated Academic and Clinical Training

The curriculum follows a lock-step design that intentionally pairs each semester's academic coursework with complementary clinical experiences. For example, in the first semester, students take courses such as Adult Dysphagia, Cognitive Communication, Adult Language, and Trachs and Vents—paired with an adult acute care placement at the Medical University Hospital Authority (MUHA). This model continues throughout the program, ensuring that classroom learning and clinical practice are aligned.

2 Competency-Based Grading and High-Pass Opportunities

Students are assessed through a pass/no pass/high pass system that emphasizes mastery of content and skill acquisition. Those pursuing a "high pass" prepare and deliver a presentation that extends beyond standard coursework, allowing them to explore an area of particular interest in greater depth. These presentations, typically held at the end of each semester, foster academic curiosity and professional

3 Active and Interactive Classrooms

Instruction incorporates a modified flipped-classroom model where class time is spent applying knowledge through debates, case discussions, mock chart reviews, instrumental exam scoring, and role-playing. This approach prioritizes instructor feedback, collaboration, and clinical reasoning—mirroring the interactive nature of professional practice.

4 Comprehensive Clinical Preparation

Students complete six distinct clinical experiences, culminating in a full-time externship in their final semester. Without a traditional on-campus clinic, MUSC students gain experience directly within real-world healthcare environments—our "on-campus clinic" is the hospital.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAM ON OUR WEBSITE:



<https://chp.musc.edu/academics>

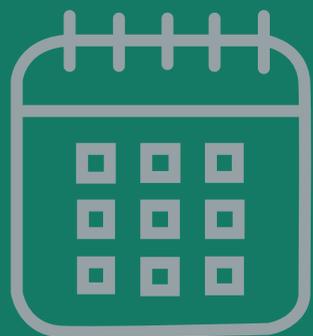
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR PROFESSIONS

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE
(OR YOURSELF)

FOR THE SCSHA EXECUTIVE BOARD!



*CHRISTINA PELATTI, PH.D., CCC-SLP
PRESIDENT ELECT-ELECT*



Deadline

November 28, 2025

We encourage all members to consider nominating a colleague—or yourself—who demonstrates leadership, dedication, vision, and a commitment to advancing the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology in South Carolina.

Your nomination helps shape the future of our organization and ensures that our collective voice remains strong and forward-thinking.

To learn more and to submit a nomination, please [visit this link](#) and apply!

Your nomination helps shape the future of our organization and ensures that our collective voice remains strong and forward-thinking.

[Click Here](#)



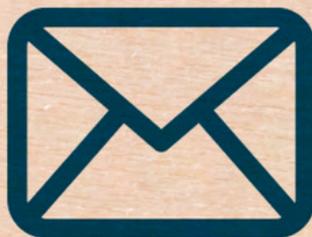
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See you soon!

January 22-24, 2026

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

2026 Annual Convention

**Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers:
Advocacy in Action**

