

## My Pathway to Leadership

If I had to use one word to describe my leadership pathway it would be “evolving”. My pathway to leadership started when I was selected to be a part of ASHA’s Pathways to Success Program in 2002. This motivated me to become more involved in associations like FLASHA and Nova NSSLHA while I was a student in graduate school. I also joined ASHA’s STEP Program as a mentee in 2004.

In 2006, I joined my local speech association, New Jersey Tri County Speech Association, and became an executive board member from 2016-2018. I also joined New Jersey’s Speech Language and Hearing Association in 2007. I was accepted to Nova’s SLPD Program in the fall of 2007. In 2009, I was asked to review applications for the Minority Student Leadership Program. I also decided to pay it forward by becoming a mentor for ASHA’s STEP program and I am currently still participating in this program.

In 2010, I became an adjunct professor at Stockton University in Galloway, NJ. I taught online courses and live courses to undergraduate students while working on my doctorate. I also supervised graduate students while working as a full-time as a speech therapist in a school system. Once I finished my doctoral program in 2012, I decided to pursue a faculty position at Stockton University. I was excited when I was offered an Assistant Professor position at Stockton University in the Fall of 2012. But the workload became overwhelming and I resigned from the position in January 2013. I decided to return to the school system to work full time in addition to working per diem for Thera Care and Sunny Days. In the meantime, I continued earning continuing education units and attended conferences. Since I wanted volunteer with ASHA, I continuously filled out volunteer forms.

In 2015, I was pleasantly surprised when I was asked to join the Committee on Nominations and Elections (CNE). Afterwards, I was motivated to run for a position in my state association during that same year. However, I was not nominated. I have now transitioned to the Committee on Leadership Cultivation (CLC). I was asked to run for an executive board position in my state association in 2017 but I was not nominated. Nevertheless, I am thankful for the opportunities that ASHA has provided me as I have learned a lot and it has encouraged me to continue volunteering after my term with the CLC is finished.