

Emerging Professional Meet Katie Schramm

I have always been a reserved individual and a planner; however, my path to leadership was completely unexpected and pushed me beyond my comfort zone!

One day in 2016, my mentor in my undergraduate program approached me and asked if I would be interested in a national leadership position.

This wasn't in my plan but I took a deep breath and told her that I'd consider the opportunity as I was interested in leadership. Little did I know that she was recommending that I serve as the President Elect (and therefore the future President!) of National NSSLHA. I was shocked and honored at her belief in me and, looking back on that day, I am so glad I went outside of my comfort zone and took on a volunteer leadership position.

I'm a Doctor of Audiology student at Northwestern University, and, honestly, grad school is extremely time consuming and difficult. Taking on the leadership role meant that I needed to manage my obligations while being extra organized so I could excel and reach my personal goals.

In this role, I have learned to facilitate meetings, delegate tasks, guide other student leaders, and push the organization to unexplored growth. But I have also pushed myself in ways I wouldn't have expected. I've had numerous public speaking opportunities (something I wouldn't have done before) including presenting the NSSLHA scholarships at an ASHFoundation event and co-presenting at the 2017 ASHA Convention. I also co-presented with Gail Richard, ASHA's Past-President, to present our paths to leadership at the 2017 ISHA Convention.

Additionally, during my 2-year leadership term, I was mentored by three different ASHA Board of Director members. These professionals took time out of their busy schedules to help me develop more leadership abilities, and they freely gave advice on being a leader in these professions.

Finally, this position afforded me the opportunity to join ASHA Board of Director members and ASHA's Advisory Council on Capitol Hill. There, I learned to advocate for our professions and patients and this first-hand experience has empowered me to continue being a strong advocate for the professions.

As I finish my term as the President of National NSSLHA, I'm confident that I will continue into future leadership opportunities because of the incredible experiences I've had.