

## Leadership Journey

My path to volunteer leadership began with my desire to see more inclusion and diversity in the field of speech-language pathology and graduate school.

My first exposure to volunteer leadership was in 2006, my second year of graduate school when I participated in the Minority Student Leadership Program (MSLP). This program helped develop my personal and professional skills, in addition, to expand my knowledge of ASHA and the pivotal role it would play in my career. Most rewarding, MSLP connected me with other talented and driven scholars to include influential minority leaders in the field.

After graduation, and still on my MSLP high, I continued to build my career by taking advantage of leadership and volunteer opportunities on my job, in my community, and through related professional organizations like the National Black Association of Speech-Language and Hearing. I presented at conferences, volunteered with outreach projects, and completed the ASHA volunteer form in order to “get in where I fit in.” In 2012, I was selected to participate in the ASHA Leadership Development Program (LDP) in Healthcare. This program connected me with colleagues across the country with similar interest as well as provided me with essential leadership training.

I continued to serve my community and employer while honing my personal and professional development skills. After a couple of years in the ASHA committee volunteer pool, I was elected to serve on the Committee on Leadership Cultivation. The journey was worth it because serving on this committee has been my greatest joy and most notably, has contributed to my interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.