

## **Emerging Professional Meet Teigan Beck**

I have the fantastic opportunity to currently serve as the President Elect of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (July 2017-June 2018). I have been overjoyed with the experiences that I have gained in this position. I have always loved leadership and have thoroughly enjoyed this first step of leadership in my future profession.

Although many people I know do not necessarily seek leadership opportunities, I am the exception who as a 13 year old ran for a middle school student body position with the slogan, "what the heck, vote Beck". I have always loved being involved and making changes to better communities, organizations and now, my profession. The past few years, as I finished my undergraduate degree in communicative disorders, I was involved in my local NSSLHA chapter as well as being elected as a college senator to represent all students in the College of Education and Human Services as a member of my university student association. These experiences gave me the passion to continue to learn about what leadership is and how I can strengthen my own abilities.

In my current situation as a busy second year SLP student, I have learned how important it is to grow my leadership abilities in all areas of my life. I would highly recommend getting involved in a national association to grow your own leadership abilities. I have had the privilege to learn from my fellow NSSLHA executive council members and my ASHA mentor on the Board of Directors. All of these experiences have provided me with growth in confidence in my leadership abilities and the ability to problem solve through many different types of situations. I have loved the opportunity to ask questions and learn from those around me.

Another amazing opportunity that I have received from getting involved in national leadership, is being a member of an ASHA committee. This committee, the Committee on Leadership Cultivation, has helped me to know how to support those around me as they seek to grow their leadership abilities and interact with leaders of all ages. I have truly learned that anyone can be a leader and a good leader seeks to lift up others along the way.

As I prepare to begin my role as President of NSSLHA, I know there is still so much to be learned. It is a constant battle of collaboration, organization and planning ahead. I can't wait to continue to grow my leadership abilities and I know how much this will help me in my future profession.