**ASHA Leadership Academic/Leadership Pathway Profile**

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22 years into an amazing career!

As a graduate student at Indiana University, I was deeply inspired by the volunteer work of one of my professors, Liz McCrea. As part of the professional issues course she instructed, she told of her work with ASHA and its various Boards and Committees. In the back of my head, I always had the desire to serve similarly. Happily, I was able to become involved with ASHA as a volunteer and volunteer leader shortly after starting work in higher education.

After working ten years in the public schools of Peoria, Illinois, I earned my doctorate and began work in a faculty role at Illinois State University. I was not a faculty member who was terribly excited about research. In truth, I made the switch to higher education because I was deeply interested in teaching. During my first year in this new role, I joined SIG 10: Issues in Higher Education. In doing so, I found a community of like-minded folks; people like me who were passionate about high-quality, evidence-based teaching and learning. When a vacancy opened up on the Coordinating Committee for SIG 10, I didn’t hesitate to throw my hat in the ring. I was elected and after serving a few years with this group, became the Coordinator for the SIG. Leading this SIG was the gateway to my increasing interest in ASHA-focused volunteerism. I rotated off of the SIG Coordinating Committee, and was elected to the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology shortly thereafter. During my 4-year term on the CAA, I served as the Vice Chair for Speech-Language Pathology and as the Chair of the Council. My next volunteer role with ASHA begins in January 2020, when I will serve as the Chair of the CAA’s Nominating Committee and a new member of the Academic Affairs Board. Each new volunteer role has a solid foundation in what has come before it. I’m thankful for the opportunities my volunteerism with ASHA have afforded me and deeply feel that I am a better professional for having had these experiences.

My volunteer work and leadership roles for ASHA have been central to my professional identity. I have met amazing people in these capacities and have had the opportunity to affect change in the profession I love so deeply. Who knew that a volunteer-minded mentor could inspire such a huge part of my career? To this day, I keep that notion in mind when I work with my students. I talk about my roles in ASHA and other opportunities for involvement. Maybe someday one of my students will have an interest sparked through these discussions as mine was a few decades ago!