

Leadership Journey - Jamila Harley, M.Ed CCC-SLP

My path to volunteer leadership began in graduate school at North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC. I was asked to run for Vice President of our NSSLHA chapter. I ran for the position and was elected. Following that year, I was accepted for the 2007 class of Minority Student Leadership Program. This program introduced me to fellow leaders who were in different stages of their academic careers and it also allowed me the chance to learn about how ASHA operated as an association and the importance of diversity and inclusion in professional practice and leadership. MSLP opened my eyes to the importance of leadership and the role volunteerism played in the association and the possibilities of how I could give back to the profession.

In 2012 I was selected for the ASHA Healthcare Leadership Development Program and in 2018 I was appointed to serve as Member-At-Large for the Scientific and Professional Education Board. I have been grateful to serve in many volunteer leadership roles with the National Black Association for Speech, Language, and Hearing including: National Student Representative, professional member of the Board of Directors, Chair of the PR Committee, and Convention Co-Chair. In October 2019, I resigned from my SPEB position to accept a position as ASHA staff. Currently, I am an Associate Director for Health Care Services in Speech-Language Pathology.

My leadership journey taught me that there is leadership potential in everyone. I believe it is important that this potential is tapped. It is also important to recognize that leaders are not always the loudest voices in the room and quiet leadership is just as effective. I'm grateful for my mentors who saw my potential and nurtured my development. I would advise all young clinicians (even students) to identify ways that they can serve the Association and lead. Servant- Leadership is the most powerful because you lead to serve others.