**Experienced Leader**

**Patty Prelock**

I often say to my students, colleagues and friends when they ask about my leadership journey that “leadership found me” and when I was asked to engage in an opportunity, I thought about what could I do to make a difference. A quote from Mahatma Gandhi has guided my willingness to lead and the responsibility I feel to give back as he so wisely said, *“You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results.”*

I have a strong commitment to giving back to our profession as I feel ASHA has given so much to me in my development as a leader and contributor to our field. My leadership journey began at a local level as I participated in leading my regional school-based SLP and that moved to my engagement in my state organization in Ohio. My national engagement started with volunteering for committee work in my areas of expertise to my significant involvement in the Language Learning and Education Special Interest Division (now Special Interest Group) as the Newsletter Editor, Associate Coordinator, and Coordinator. I also participated on the Board of Division Coordinators and helped to lead the re-envisioned structure of what is now known as the Special Interest Groups (SIG). My work on the Committee on Specialty Recognition allowed me to understand the interworking of developing and implementing specialty credentialing. Consistent participation as a ASHA Convention Committee member and then Topic Coordinator to ASHA Convention Co-Chair provided me with the opportunity to really understand and celebrate the scholarship and contribution to new knowledge that our colleagues make. I was then fortunate enough to be nominated and elected to the ASHA Board of Directors as Vice President for Standards and Ethics in SLP, followed by ASHA President, and then Chair of the Committee on Leadership Cultivation where I had the opportunity to support the development of the next generation of ASHA leaders. Currently, I serve as Vice-President for the Organization Committee and President-Elect for the ASHFoundation, which allows me to give back not just as a volunteer leader but as a philanthropist committed to the development of young scholars in our profession.

My ASHA leadership roles have supported my skill development in my work setting. I have had the opportunity to serve as Department Chair, Dean and now Provost at the University of Vermont. I have continued my development as a leader seeing leadership as an ongoing journey. This is why I committed to a year-long Leadership Training in Integrative Health at Duke University in which I gained some unique skills in mindful leadership that I have found as most helpful in my ability to mentor future leaders. The culmination of my leadership opportunities enabled me to gain practical knowledge and understanding of effective ways to address conflict, mediate difficult situations, engage in generative thinking, inspire colleagues around a vision, and listen with empathy and mindful presence. It continues to be my great honor to mentor and support the next generation of leaders in our profession and in higher education.