

To my fellow members of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association,

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Vice President for Educational and Scientific Affairs. Since 2017, I have served on the TSHA Programming Committee, contributing to the planning and execution of our annual Convention through both triumphs and challenges. As our professions and our organization have navigated ongoing change, the Convention has remained a vital source of connection, professional growth, and community for speech-language pathologists and audiologists across Texas.

My years of involvement in Convention planning have been both fulfilling and inspiring. I began by reviewing submissions for the call for papers and later served as Chair of the Programming Committee for three pivotal years, spanning the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, I helped lead the transition to TSHA's first virtual convention in 2021 and played a key role in returning to an in-person event the following year, despite the logistical challenges posed by an unexpected ice storm.

Following my term as Programming Chair, I proposed and established a new chair position: Education Innovation. This role was designed to elevate the quality of our educational offerings, bridge the gap between research and practice, and support first-time speakers. Currently, I serve as Councilor to the Vice President for Educational and Scientific Affairs for the 2025 Convention in San Antonio, continuing my close involvement in all aspects of Convention planning.

Through these experiences, I've seen firsthand how rapidly our landscape is evolving, and how essential it is for TSHA to adapt in meaningful ways. While our Convention has long been a place to reunite with colleagues, forge new connections, and earn continuing education credits, we must now ensure it continues to offer value that extends far beyond convenience. In a time when CEUs are just a click away, our Convention must be an experience that informs, inspires, and unites.

If elected Vice President, I will prioritize innovation, personalization, and authentic connection to ensure the TSHA Convention remains a cornerstone of professional engagement and growth. I am committed to building on our strong foundation to deliver meaningful, relevant, and enriching experiences for all our members.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of TSHA.

Lori Cochran M.S. CCC-SLP