

**NSSLHA Strategic Plan 2008-2011
Status Report
March 2009**

Vision

NSSLHA: The Future of the Communicative Sciences and Disorders Professions

Mission

The **mission** of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA), the pre-professional membership association for students interested in the study of communicative sciences and disorders, is:

- To advocate for students at the national, state, and local level;
- To forge professional relationships between speech-language pathologists and audiologists;
- To provide resources to prepare students to become professionals, and;
- To facilitate the transition from NSSLHA to ASHA membership and other professional organizations as the entry into the profession.

Issue A: Membership

The number of students entering CSD programs and becoming NSSLHA members is not projected to meet the growing need for CSD services. In addition, pre-professional membership does not reflect the diversity of the population at large.

Outcome/Goal:

- A. More students entering undergraduate and graduate CSD programs will become active participants in NSSLHA.

Strategies:

1. Educate students and faculty about NSSLHA and the role of local chapters.
2. Examine the current membership structure of NSSLHA.
3. Investigate what CSD students desire from a pre-professional organization.
4. Re-examine membership benefits currently available to members of the organization.
5. Promote NSSLHA's benefits, programs, and accomplishments to faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students.

Progress-to-Date:

- Exhibited at the Council of Academic Programs in CSD Conference (April 2008)
- Completed a survey of CSD member and non-member students (December 2008)
- Initiated a by-laws amendment to address equal representation on the Council (January 2009)
- Created a Member-at-large position (January 2009)

Outcome/Goal:

- B. NSSLHA's membership will better reflect the population as a whole and the diversity of those who receive the services from CSD professionals will be increased.

Strategies:

1. Facilitate the recruitment of diverse undergraduate and graduate students in local chapters through education and partnerships with the national organization.
2. Educate the public about CSD professions; target educational opportunities aimed at underrepresented groups, such as:
 - a. Males
 - b. Cultural and linguistic minorities
 - c. International students
 - d. Audiology students
 - e. Non-traditional students (second career; generational differences)

Progress-to-Date:

- Entered into an agreement with Bilingual Therapies to provide scholarship opportunities for Bilingual NSSLHA members. (January 2008)
- Participated in the Health Occupation Students of America Conference (June 2008)
- Distributed materials to 14 local chapters or private institutions across 11 states to host CSD Career Awareness events.(On-going)

Issue B: Advocacy

NSSLHA strives to be the student voice in audiology and speech-language pathology professional organizations and government agencies.

Outcome/Goal:

- A. NSSLHA will participate in decisions affecting the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology to ensure that student input is recognized and considered.

Strategies:

1. Ensure a NSSLHA presence on professional boards and other decision-making entities.
2. Ensure that ASHA considers the impact upon students of the rules/regulations it adopts.
3. Ensure state level participation in professional organization and legislative issues.
4. Establish lines of communication with related professional and student organizations (e.g., NAFDA, AAA).
5. Allow opportunity for student input (panels, conference, questionnaire)

Progress-to-Date:

- Regional Councilors are represented on key ASHA board and committees (Ongoing)
- NSSLHA's vice-president participated in a student discussion with the Council of State Association Presidents (November 2008)

Issue C: Communication

NSSLHA has extensive resources that are not readily available and frequently accessed by members and chapter advisors.

Outcome/Goal:

- A. Increased knowledge, personal ownership, and utilization of the resources available through NSSLHA.

Strategies:

1. Use technology to its full extent to communicate with NSSLHA members.
2. Streamline channels of communication with all members.
3. Provide multiple opportunities for participation to meet the needs of all members and allow for maximum utilization of NSSLHA resources.
4. Customize communications and resources for the varied audiences of NSSLHA.

Progress-to-Date:

- Hosted conference calls with local NSSLHA chapters (August/September 2008)
- Implemented an online NSSLHA membership application (March 2009)

Issue D: Organizational Relationships NSSLHA needs to define and advance its relationships with other related student and professional organizations.

Outcome/Goal:

- A. Foster productive and collaborative relationships with other related organizations.

Strategies:

1. Create a position statement on NSSLHA's relationship with related organizations
2. Learn more about the other student and professional organizations
3. Collaboration with the executive board of NSSLHA and other student organizations in co-sponsored events.
4. Participation in other organization's conventions, meetings, and conferences to gain a better understanding of how each organization functions.
5. Keep other organization up to date with activities of NSSLHA through email.

Progress-to-Date:

- Co-hosted the student luncheon at the NBASLH Conference (April 2008)
- Exhibited at the NAFDA Conference (April 2008)