

## **-Welcome-**

Welcome to the 2019 Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association's annual convention! Our theme this year is "It Starts with Us," and our lineup of dynamic speakers and events embodies the spirit of that theme. Our convention emphasizes the importance of inter-professional relationship, and their ability to enhance the outcomes for our patients and their families. The impact of our field truly starts with us! Over the next three days, I hope you will be actively learning and networking. The relationships you form within professional organizations have the ability to change your life as well as the lives of your patients. Make it count this weekend!

I cannot stress the importance of your membership in the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association enough. Without our wonderful members, we would be unable to make as big of an impact as we do each year. I challenge you to network with executive council members, attend forums, and find out what your state organization is actively doing for you year-round. What you find may surprise you!

We are so excited to kick off our convention on Thursday afternoon with our pre-convention program. On Friday, we hope you will join us at our annual business meeting where a delicious lunch will be provided, and you can find out more about what GSHA is doing for you. After courses are completed on Friday, our President's Reception will take place, and we cannot wait to see you all there! At lunch on Saturday, consider attending the Praxis Bowl. This is a dynamic quiz bowl, and we know you will have some fun! Remember to use your Guidebook App throughout our event to check out the schedule and Continuing Education Unit (CEU) opportunities. We have been working hard to maximize the amount of CEUs you can earn this year!

I am so happy that you chose GSHA, and that you are here. If you need anything at all during your time in Athens, please find me, another council member, or a registration desk volunteer. We are excited to be here, as we all add new tools to our therapy toolbox and new relationships to our network because we all know that "It Starts with Us!"

Sarah Rapillard, MS, CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
2019 GSHA Convention Chair

