



September 22, 2008

Dear College of Health Professions Faculty,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am a student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at the Medical University of South Carolina. For the last few years, our program has been a two year, full-time graduate program with 55 students currently enrolled. I am also a member of the Charleston Chapter of NSSLHA, the **National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association**. NSSLHA is a pre-professional membership association for students interested in the study of communication sciences and disorders. Membership provides benefits that help students enhance their academic knowledge, participate in internships and network with others in the field of speech-language pathology and audiology.

The Charleston Chapter of NSSLHA remains actively involved in a number of local philanthropic activities, including the Down Syndrome Association of the Low Country (DSAL). The DSAL is a non-profit organization serving eastern South Carolina that promotes and fosters programs that enable and encourage individuals with Down Syndrome to reach their full potential. Each year, NSSLHA provides DSAL with student volunteers and financial support to assist the organization with some of their annual events. NSSLHA also volunteers with other commendable groups and causes such as Habitat for Humanity, Mt. Pleasant Sertoma Club, Surfer's Healing, National NSSLHA Loves Campaign and programs/camps organized by local speech pathologists and audiologists.

In addition to our service work, NSSLHA grants students the opportunity to enhance their academic graduate work by attending conventions with professionals in our field. This November, several students hope to attend the annual American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention in Chicago, Illinois. There are twenty-four first and second year students who will be attending the convention. Of these, a majority have been selected to present research projects at the convention.

To benefit our philanthropic and educational activities, I am asking for your support to help NSSLHA raise money. Your donation would facilitate our support of worthy charitable organizations in the Charleston community and nationally. Your donation would also be of considerable help in allowing NSSLHA student members to participate in educational experiences, such as the 2008 ASHA Convention.

If you wish to donate to our chapter, you may do so through three secure means. Donations can be made online through our website at <http://www.musc.edu/chp/csd/nsslha> or by mailing a check to: NSSLHA – Charleston Chapter, c/o President Kristen Lankford, 1054 Anna Knapp Blvd., 20G, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464. If you are on the MUSC campus, you also may place a check in Kristen Lankford's student mailbox located on the second floor of the College of Health Professions Building B.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration of this fundraising request to benefit our organization. Again, please feel free to visit the website listed above for additional links and contact information.

Sincerely,

Kristen Lankford

Kristen Lankford
NSSLHA President, Charleston Chapter