



2026 ADVOCACY DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026, 9:00AM-12:00PM

Course Description: Explore the topic of Advocacy in Speech-Language Pathology. Come join us to learn about the steps of advocacy; from contacting your local and state legislators, engaging in conversations to remain aware and be active in ways to improve the lives of people with communication and swallowing disorders. Learn about The Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact and the professional implications of and ASHA's response to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Learn about various community programs advocating for populations we serve, including Camp Dream Speak Live for individuals who stutter, "Fun with Food" for children with complex feeding needs, support groups for families with children with DLD, and Level Up Aphasia for people living with aphasia. Presenters are comprised of graduate students, community SLPs, faculty/researchers, and community stakeholders.

Learning Objectives: Participants will:

1. Participants will identify and access their local and state representatives.
2. Discuss role of advocacy in regards to the creation of The Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact as well implication of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
3. Identify at least 3 different community programs discussed during presentations advocating for populations we serve.

About the Presenters:

Jacquie Robinson (Truluck) is the MA Program Director and Director of Clinical Education for the Communication Sciences and Disorders department. She is an ASHA certified, DE state licensed speech-language pathologist who oversees the clinical education of first and second year graduate students on campus and out in the DE and surrounding community. Taking the content from academic classes and applying to patients/clients/students in need of communication and swallowing services is challenging enough, but to provide that care under legal and ethical obligation as well as demonstrating professionalism requires time, exposure and direct instruction. Jacquie recognizes the demands of the educational and healthcare systems on providers and supports students in understanding all aspects of being a speech-language pathologist after graduation.

Location: North Atrium,
Health Sciences Complex
540 S. College Ave, Newark,
DE 19713

Time Ordered Agenda:

9:00-9:15 – Welcome & The
CSCD Program

9:15 to 9:35 – Who are my
legislative representatives?

9:35-10:00 – Level Up Aphasia

10:00-10:10 – Break

10:10- 10:50 –The Audiology
and SLP Interstate Compact
(ASLP-IC); ASHA's response
to the OBBBA

10:50 – 11:15 – Camp
Dream.Speak.Live

11:15– 11:40 – Fun with Food

11:40-11:55 - Support groups for
families with a child with DLD

11:55-12:00 – Wrap up



ASHA CE
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University of Delaware

Introductory Level
0.25 ASHA CEUs



Jessica Bahls, MS, CCC-SLP is a licensed speech language pathologist and clinical educator at the University of Delaware. She also co-teaches the Neurogenic Disorders of Speech Graduate Course along with Dr. Ho Ming Chow. Jessica has over eleven years of experience working primarily in medical and university settings. She specializes in evaluation and treatment of adults with voice, swallowing, and communication disorders. In addition to her role at the University of Delaware Speech-Language- Hearing Clinic, Jessica also works as a per diem speech-language pathologist at Christiana Care in Newark, DE.

Rep. Michael Smith was elected in 2018 and again in 2024 to serve the 22nd District which includes the Pike Creek Valley and areas of Hockessin and Newark. For over nine years, Mike has been the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships for the University of Delaware's College of Health Sciences. Through this role, he focuses on the marketing/communications, external affairs, government affairs and strategic planning for the College and the STAR Campus. In this position, Mike is responsible for growing partnerships for 3 active clinics, research studies and community relations.

Rebecca Hunting-Pompon, PhD is an associate professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders department and Director of the Aphasia and Rehabilitation Outcomes Lab at the University of Delaware. She has a clinical background in adult mental health and her research focuses on aphasia, measurement of psychological factors, their integration in aphasia assessment, and their contribution to treatment response. She also trains clinicians in counseling skills and interpersonal communication strategies.

Katie Gordon, M.S. CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist and AAC coordinator at the Brennen School. She has seven years of experience working with preschool and elementary students with autism. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Delaware and her graduate training at the University of South Florida. She supports the Fun with Food program as a community clinical educator, which promotes food exploration and functional communication skills.

Phoebe Mayo earned a BA in early childhood education from Clemson University and is currently working towards a master's degree in speech-language pathology at the University of Delaware. She is from Savannah, Ga, where her love for working with children began at local summer camps. Phoebe is excited to continue learning and growing as she pursues her path to become a well-rounded clinician.

Makayla Almond is a first-year master's student in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Delaware. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from James Madison University in 2022. Makayla has experience working in pediatric and medical settings, including working as a Speech and Audiology Aide at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and as a Registered Behavior Technician supporting children with autism. Her clinical interests include pediatric speech and language development, autism spectrum disorders, and speech sound disorders.

Evan Usler, PhD is an Assistant Professor in Communication Sciences & Disorders in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware and the director of the Interpersonal Neurophysiology Lab. He received his PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience from Purdue University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Boston University and MGH Institute of Health Professions.

Susan Adams, Esq., CAE is the Director for State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at ASHA. She also serves as legislative liaison and ex officio to the ASLP-IC Commission. Susan received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Towson University and her juris doctor from the University of Baltimore, School of Law. Susan holds the American Society of Association Executives' Certified Association Executive credential.

Victoria Coons is a second-year Ph.D. student in the School of Education at the University of Delaware, specializing in Sociocultural and Community-Based Approaches (SCA).





Maura O'Fallon, PhD, CCC-SLP is a licensed speech-language pathologist and postdoctoral researcher at the University of Delaware. She is interested in the implementation of family-centered language interventions and how clinicians can work with caregivers and other adults in a child's life to support language development. She is further interested in how children's language relates to their development in other domains that are critical for academic success, namely literacy and behavior.

Course Information: This course is offered for 0.25 ASHA CEUs. No partial or variable credit will be offered for this course.

Registration: If you would like to earn 0.25 ASHA CEUs by attending this course, please complete [this form](#). You will be asked to include your ASHA ID #, last name, first name, address, city, state, zip code, country and email in your response. There is no registration fee to attend this course. You will be contacted via email if this course is cancelled for any reason.

Participant Assistance: Participants requiring special assistance should contact Jess Bahls, CE Administrator, no later than 10 business days prior to the event by email at aaronj@udel.edu.

Complaint Process: Participants having a complaint regarding this workshop should contact the CE Administrator at University of Delaware, either verbally or in writing, within 14 business days of the event. Participants will be notified, in writing, within 14 business days regarding the proposed resolution to the complaint. Send complaints to 540 S. College Ave., Suite 102 Newark, DE 19713, Attn: Jess Bahls, CE Administrator.

Financial and Non-Financial Disclosures:

Jacque Robinson receives a salary from the University of Delaware. No nonfinancial disclosures to report.

Jessica Bahls is a paid employee at the University of Delaware and Christiana Care. No nonfinancial disclosures to report.

Rep. Michael Smith receives a salary from the University of Delaware & from the State of Delaware. No nonfinancial disclosures to report.

Rebecca Hunting-Pompon is a paid employee at the University of Delaware, receives research funding from NIH/NIDCD 1R01DC021181-01, NIH/NIDCD R01DC019352-01, receives royalties from MedBridge Education (online CE course series on counseling), and is affiliated with the Board of Directors, National Aphasia Association.

Katie Gordon is a contracted employee in the Christina School District.

Phoebe Mayo has no financial conflicts of interests.

Makayla Almond has no financial conflicts of interests.

Evan Usler is a paid employee at the University of Delaware. No nonfinancial disclosures to report.

Susan Adams is employed by ASHA and is Ex officio and legislative liaison to ASLP-IC Commission.

Victoria Coons is funded by the University of Delaware through a Unidel award.

Maura O'Fallon receives salary support from the University of Delaware and NIH-funded grants related to the work presented here.

