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NJSHA Awards “Distinguished Service Award” to National Speech and Hearing Organization

TRENTON – June 14, 2017 – The New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) has presented its annual “Distinguished Service Award” to its national organization, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), for its 90 years of service.

ASHA, with more than 191,500 members nationally, represents the professions of speech-language pathology, audiology and speech-language and hearing sciences.

The award was accepted by Dr. Janet Koehnke, Chair and Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Montclair State University and ASHA Vice President of Academic Affairs in Audiology.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I want to express our gratitude for this wonderful award,” Koehnke said.

Koehnke said ASHA recognizes state speech-language-hearing associations in all 50 states, providing a range of support, such as presentations on advocacy and providing grants. Funding has been used, for example, to create videos that advance the profession, compile data that advocates for new university programs and increase student participation through advocacy efforts.

The award was recently presented by Dr. Gerard Caracciolo, NJSHA President and Linda Tucker Simpson, NJSHA Immediate Past President, who noted that ASHA has implemented a set of widely accepted standards for training, credentialing and ethical conduct. The organization has supported its members, as well as state organizations, to provide high quality continuing educational offerings to meet the rigorous standards of the professions.

ASHA’s rich website resources and expert personnel have continued to enable audiologists and speech-language pathologists to meet the rigorous standards of the professions while serving the needs of the people they serve as well as future generations of speech and hearing professionals. Other key reasons why ASHA was bestowed the award:

- ASHA has engaged its members in the art of advocacy that can be applied at the national and state levels.
- ASHA has worked to improve coverage related to reimbursement issues, in addition to a number of other issues affecting speech and hearing professionals, service recipients and their families.
- ASHA updates members about current trends and practices, while bringing visibility to the professions. For example, through ASHA, the month of May has been deemed “Better Hearing and Speech Month.”
- ASHA informs and engages state association members, providing assistance in monitoring, guiding and managing state regulatory and legislative concerns.

Learn more at NJSHA.org and ASHA.org.

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