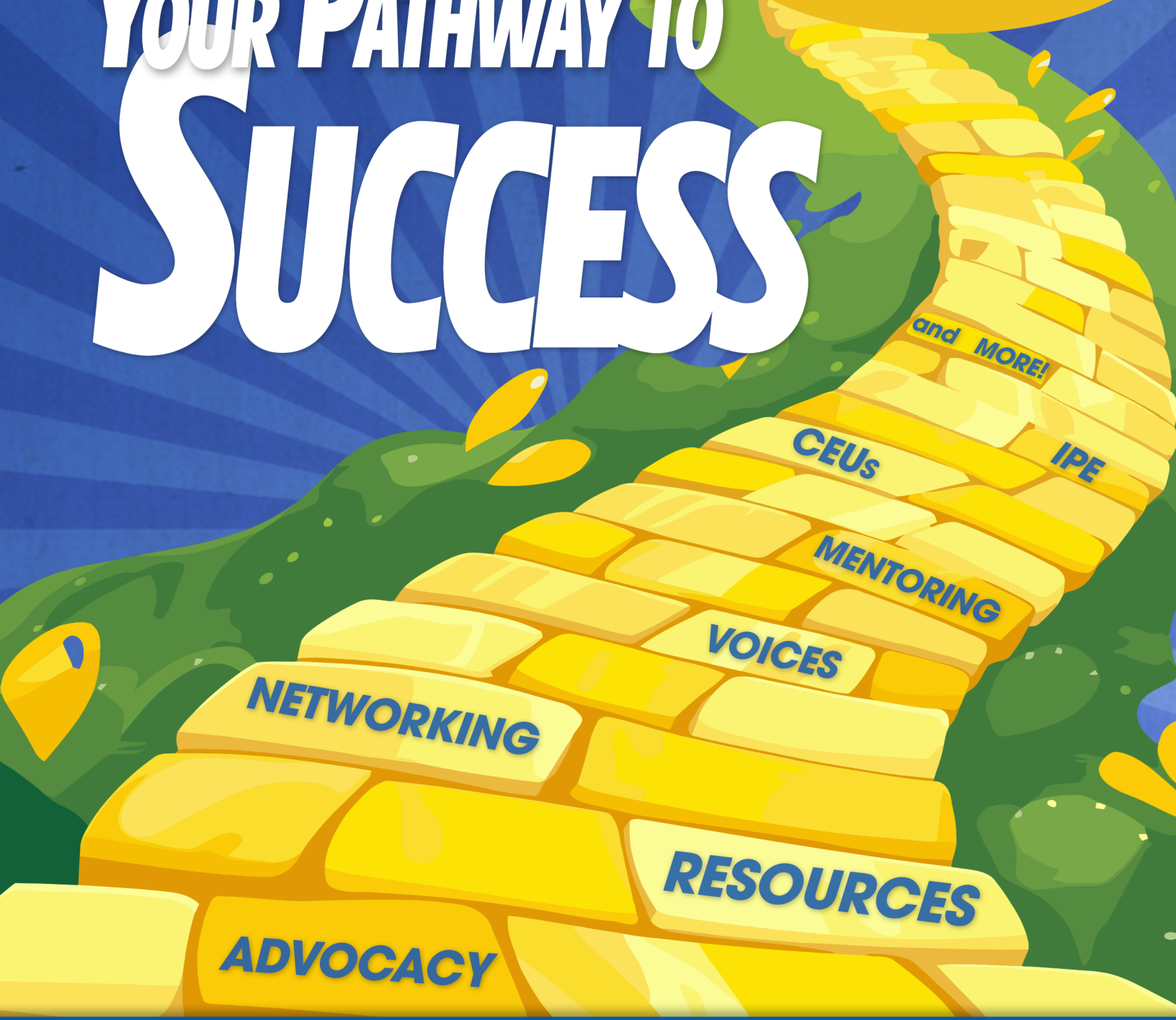




YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS



2026 NJSHA Convention
April 16-17, 2026
APA HOTEL, ISELIN, NJ

FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Michael Kaufman, MSW, PhD

Your Personal Journey to Success

Thursday, April 16 • 9:45 - 10:30 am

Michael Kaufman, MSW, PhD, is Managing Director of Premier Education Partners, a special education management company he founded in 2017. A leader in education and social services, he previously served as COO and later President and CEO of Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI) and launched the teletherapy company TalkPath™ Live.

With degrees in accounting, social work, and clinical psychology, Mike has taught at Rutgers University, completed Harvard's Key Executives Program, and is a frequent speaker and author of *Doing Good & Doing Well: Inspiring Helping Professionals to Become Leaders in Their Organizations* (2023).

Greetings from the Convention Committee

We hope this message finds you well. As the 2026 NJSHA Convention approaches, we are excited to invite you to join us for this unparalleled event. This year promises to be filled with insightful sessions, networking opportunities, and the chance to connect with industry leaders.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 NJSHA Convention and creating lasting memories together. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to contact our dedicated support team at info@njsha.org or [888.906.5742](tel:888.906.5742).

Thank you for being a part of the NJSHA 2026 Convention!

Catherine Curtis and Lori Watkins

Convention Committee Chairs: Speech-Language Program

Marykate Vaughn

Convention Committee Chair: Audiology Program



Catherine Curtis



Lori Watkins



Marykate Vaughn

Why Attend NJSHA's Annual Convention?

- **Michael Kaufman, MSW, PhD:** Our Keynote speaker presenting: *Your Personal Journey to Success*
- Obtain up to 1.65 of CEU hours
- Praxis Bowl - Show your support for the students and your Alma Mater, while obtaining ASHA CEUs!
- Expanded Exhibit Hall and Product Demonstrations
- Networking and Interprofessional Collaboration

How to Register:

Securing your spot at the NJSHA Convention is easy! Follow these steps:

1. Visit our registration page: <https://www.njsha.org>
2. Fill out the required information.
3. Select your preferred package and add-ons.
4. Complete the payment process.

Accommodations:

Make the most of your NJSHA Convention experience by booking your accommodations early.



Book your room now at the special room rate of **\$159.30** per night available (taxes are included in this rate).

This rate will be available until **Monday, March 23, 2026** or until room block is full.

[CLICK HERE](#) for instructions to book your room.

If you prefer to make your reservation by phone, please use the information below:

- Phone Number: **407-992-2511**
- Reservation Code: **S0426**

Connect With Us:

Stay updated on 2026 NJSHA Convention news and announcements by following us on social media.



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Marni Reisberg Memorial Program

Susan Pattay, Ed.D., CCC-SLP
Monmouth University

Thursday, April 16 • 10:45 am - 12:15 pm
Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: an Interactive Workshop

Keynote Speaker:

Michael Kaufman, MSW, PhD

Thursday, April 16 • 9:45 - 10:30 am
Your Personal Journey to Success

The Stepping Stones Group Knowledge Quest - Praxis Game Show for Students

Friday, April 17 • 12:15 - 1:30 pm

Come out and support your Alma Mater! Cheer on the students as they compete in the Praxis Bowl!

Honors and Awards Presentation and Welcome Reception

Thursday, April 16 • 5:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate the 2026 NJSHA Honors and Awards recipients as well as student scholarship winners. These presentations provide an opportunity for NJSHA members to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and successes of our peers.

Sponsored by:



Annual Membership Breakfast and Meeting

Friday, 7:00 - 8:30 am

This event includes a hot breakfast buffet and allows NJSHA members to receive Association updates and recognize those who volunteer their time and service to the organization.

Attention Students

Poster Presentations

Friday, April 17

10:00 - 11:00 am • 1:45 - 2:45 pm

Deadline extended until March 13, 2026.

Visit www.njsa.org to submit today.

Continuing Education

ASHA Continuing Education

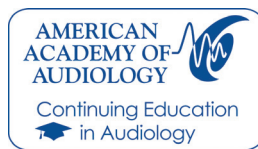


ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

New Jersey
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

This course is offered for up to 1.65 ASHA CEUs (Various Levels).

AAA Continuing Education



The New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association is approved by the American Academy of Audiology to offer Academy CEUs for this activity. The program is worth up to 1.5 CEUs. Academy approval of this continuing education activity is based on course content only and does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedure, or adherence of the event to the Academy's Code of Ethics. Any views that are presented are those of the presenter/CE Provider and not necessarily of the American Academy of Audiology.

International Hearing Society

NJSHA is approved by the International Hearing Society to offer continuing education for this course. This course [CEN-454-26] is approved for up to 10.5 credit(s) of continuing education (1 CE Credit = 1 contact hour). IHS approval of this course is based on content only and does not imply endorsement of the course content, specific products, clinical procedure, instructor or adherence to the IHS Code of Ethics. Any views that are presented are those of the presenter/Education Provider and not necessarily of the International Hearing Society.



Convention T-shirts shipped directly to your house in time for convention!

Order by April 1 to ensure on-time delivery.

Click [HERE](#) to order.



HIGHLIGHTED PRESENTERS

Learn more about each presenter by visiting the NJSHA website, www.njsha.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Michael Kaufman

MSW, PhD

Presenting the Keynote Address: *Your Personal Journey to Success*

▶ Thursday 9:45 - 10:30 am



Evelyn Klein

PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL



Cesar Ruiz

SLPD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Presenting: *The Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in Testing and Treating Children with Selective Mutism*

▶ Part 1: Thursday 1:15 - 2:45 pm

▶ Part 2: Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 pm



Dani Pellicano

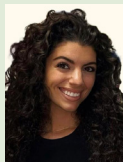
M.S., CCC-SLP

Presenting: *Social Executive Functioning*

▶ Friday 8:45 - 10:45 am

Strengthening Executive Functions by Becoming a Predictor

▶ Friday 1:45 - 3:15 pm



Amanda Pluchino

M.S.Ed., CCC-SLP

Presenting: *Chew on This: A Beginner's Guide to Pediatric Feeding Therapy*

▶ Friday 1:45 - 3:15 pm



Benny & Erik X Raj

PhD, CCC-SLP

Presenting: *Honoring Clients in Stuttering Therapy: Building the Therapeutic Alliance Through Co-Design and Collaboration*

▶ Thursday 10:45 am - 12:15 pm



Mark DeRuiter

MBA, PhD, CCC-A/SLP

Presenting: *The Successful Leader and Advocate: Realizing Your Potential*

▶ Friday 7:30-8:30 am

(Following the Membership Breakfast and Annual Meeting)



Christina Roup

PhD

Presenting: *Functional Hearing Difficulties: Detecting What the Audiogram Misses*

▶ Thursday 10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Low-Gain Hearing Aids: A Clinical Approach to Managing Functional Hearing Difficulties

▶ Thursday 1:45 - 2:45 pm



Mary Ying

MD

Presenting: *Autoimmune Hearing Loss/Sudden Hearing Loss*

▶ Thursday 8:00 - 9:30 am



Shelby Ford

M.S., CCC-SLP

Presenting: *R without the Rage*

▶ Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 pm

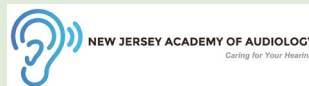


Presenting: *The interdisciplinary management of concussion recovery: PT/OT/SLP*

Organization: *RWJBH Health System - Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Center. Located at the RWJBarnabas Health Ambulatory Care Center*

Speakers: *Michael Heitzman, PT, DPT
Dori Cohen, MS, OTR/L, MSCS, CSRS
Allison Levin, MS, CCC-SLP*

▶ Friday 1:45 - 3:15 pm



Presenting: *Creative Clinical Solutions for Challenging Hearing Aid Fittings*

Speakers: *Kenneth A. Bodkin, Au.D., PASC
Elena Kagan-Weitz, Au.D., CCC-A, F-AAA
Eric Sandler, Sc. D., AuD.*

▶ Friday 8:45 - 10:45 am

Presenting: *Beyond the Clinic: Expanding Audiology Through Podcasts, Virtual Care, & Mission Work*

Speakers: *Michelle Niedelman-Kennedy AuD., CCC-A
Michelle Schechter AuD., CCC-A
Eric Sandler, Sc. D., AuD.*

▶ Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Volunteers
Are Needed!**

Be a part of the Convention and volunteer!

Room moderators will introduce the speaker and read a short biography. They will be responsible for relaying any last-minute information to the attendees. If you would like to sign-up to be a room moderator, please check the box on the Convention registration form.

Convention Registration Rates

	Early Bird through March 23	Regular through April 10	Onsite		Early Bird through March 23	Regular through April 10	Onsite
Full Convention Registration				Single Day Registration			
NJSHA/NJAA Member	\$285	\$310	\$335	NJSHA/NJAA Member	\$170	\$205	\$230
Non-Member	\$435	\$460	\$485	Non-Member	\$320	\$345	\$370
Student/recent grad - member	\$50	\$75	\$75	Student/Recent Grad Member	\$50	\$75	\$75
Student/recent grad non-member	\$110	\$135	\$135	Student/Recent Grad Non-Member	\$110	\$135	\$135
Life members	\$200	\$225	\$250	Life Members	\$145	\$180	\$205

GROUP REGISTRATION: Forms to register a Group can be found on the NJSHA website at www.njscha.org.

Note: All registration forms must come in one packet in order to qualify for the Group Discount.

	Early Bird through March 23	Regular through April 10		Early Bird through March 23	Regular through April 10
Professional Group Rates - Full Convention			Professional Group Rates - Single Day		
	Member	Non-Member		Member	Non-Member
5 - 10 Registrants	\$275	\$425	5 - 10 Registrants	\$165	\$315
11 - 15 Registrants	\$270	\$420	11 - 15 Registrants	\$160	\$310
16+ Registrants	\$250	\$400	16+ Registrants	\$145	\$295



Attention Audiologists

Once again, NJSHA has partnered with the New Jersey Academy of Audiology (NJAA) to sponsor the audiology program.

Welcome NJAA Members to the NJSHA Convention!

NJAA members can register at member rates.

AUDIOLOGY

Join your colleagues for two full days to network and hear the latest on Audiology topics including:

Featured presentations

S06 Autoimmune Hearing Loss/Sudden Hearing Loss

S13 Functional Hearing Difficulties:
Detecting What the Audiogram Misses

S19 Low-Gain Hearing Aids: A Clinical Approach
to Managing Functional Hearing Difficulties

S25 Hearing loss from Diabetes
and Other Chronic Illness

S31 Challenging Hearing Aid Fittings

S32 Beyond the Clinic: Expanding Audiology Through
Podcasts, Virtual Care, & Mission Work

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Schedule-At-A-Glance

To learn more about each session, visit www.njscha.org.

Session Content					
SLP - School	SLP - Multi	AAC	SLP - Med	AUD	SLP/AUD
TIME	SESS	TITLE		SPEAKERS	
Registration and Exhibits Open 7:00 am - 5:00 pm					
8:00 am - 9:30 am	S01	The AI-Empowered Speech-Language Specialist		Stacey Palant	
	S02	From Conversation to Connection: Advancing Real-World Language for Secondary Students Through The New York Times Learning Network 2.0		Marla Reich	
	S03	School Security for Students with Exceptionalities		Thomas Gambino Julie Norflus-Good	
	S04	AAC Essentials for Early Intervention		Quinn Kelly	
	S05	Bridging the Gap - Voice Therapy for Professional Voice Users		Lisa Mullane Viggiano	
	S06	Breaking the Silence: Exploring the Link to Autoimmune Disorders and Sudden Hearing Loss		Mary Ying	
9:45 am - 10:30 am	S07	KEYNOTE: Your Personal Journey to Success		Michael Kaufman	
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	S08	Honoring Clients in Stuttering Therapy: Building the Therapeutic Alliance Through Co-Design and Collaboration		Benny Erik X. Raj	
	S09	Keys of Inclusive Therapy: A Course for School-Based/Pediatric Speech Language Therapists		Laurie Summer	
	S11	Building Your Private Practice in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology		Denise Bayles, Julia Latorraca, Christina Luna, Alex Malyarovich Sharon Ratiner, Eric Sandler, Barbra Seltzer	
	S12	Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: an Interactive Workshop		Susan Pattay Jackie Kemp	
	S13	Functional Hearing Difficulties: Detecting What the Audiogram Misses		Christina Roup	
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch				
	Professional Poster Presentations				
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm	S14	Autism and Literacy Part 1		Karen Kimberlin	
	S15	The Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in Testing and Treating Children with Selective Mutism Part 1		Evelyn Klein and Cesar Ruiz	
	S16	Sensory-Motor Pathways to Speech: The Evidence Behind Outdoor Play		Emily McCue, Brianna Reich, Kelsie Teehan	
	S17	What's Missing From Your Pediatric Evaluation?		Meghan Lockard and Stephanie Garcia	
	S18	Cognitive Deficits in PTSD: Implications for SLP Practice		Christiane J. Scarpino	
	S19	Low-Gain Hearing Aids: A Clinical Approach to Managing Functional Hearing Difficulties		Christina Roup	
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	S20	Autism and Literacy Part 2		Karen Kimberlin	
	S21	The Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in Testing and Treating Children with Selective Mutism Part 2		Evelyn Klein and Cesar Ruiz	
	S22	R Without the Rage		Shelby Ford	
	S25	Hearing loss from Diabetes and Other Chronic Illness		Robert DiSogra	
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	S23	Mastering Documentation: Executive Functioning & Mindset Tools That Work		Theresa Harp	
	S24	Strategies for Working with Persons with Serious Mental Health Conditions		Stephanie Hubbell, Aaron Dallman, Giovanni Paul Frances DeCicco, Allison Alba Vega	
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Honors and Awards Presentation and Reception				

Friday, April 17, 2026

Schedule-At-A-Glance

To learn more about each session, visit www.njsa.org.

Session Content					
SLP - School	SLP - Multi	AAC	SLP - Med	AUD	SLP/AUD
TIME	SESS	TITLE			SPEAKERS
Registration 6:30 am - 5:00 pm Exhibits Open 8:00 am - 1:30 pm					
7:00 am to 7:30 am		Membership Breakfast and Annual Meeting			
7:30 am to 8:30 am		AHSa Speaker Presents: The Successful Leader and Advocate: Realizing Your Potential			Mark DeReuter
8:45 am - 10:45 am	S26	Social Executive Functioning			Dani Pellicano
	S27	Inclusive AAC in Education: Practical Strategies for Access and Participation			Jennifer O'Donnell, Lauren Padula, Gabriella Wendling
	S28	Skills First: A Practical Framework for Intentional Parent Coaching in Early Intervention			Samantha Ecker
	S29	Empowering Autistic Adults through the clubhouse model			Allison Alba Vega, Aaron Dallman Frances DeCicco, Stephanie HubbellGiovanni Paul
	S30	Novel Ways AI Can Transform Clinical Supervision			Jacqueline Marchese, Lauren Dennis, Lisa Belle
8:45 am - 10:15 am	S31	Challenging Hearing Aid Fittings			Kenneth A. Bodkin Elena Kagan-Weitz Eric Sandler
10:00 am - 11:00 am		Student Posters 1			
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	S32	Beyond the Clinic: Expanding Audiology Through Podcasts, Virtual Care, & Mission Work			Michelle Niedelman-Kennedy Michelle Schechter Eric Sandler
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	S33	School Affairs Update			Various
	S34	Healthcare/Private Practice/Early Intervention Update			Various
12:00 pm - 1:45 pm		Lunch			
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Update	Audiology Update			Eric Sandler and Alexis Rooney
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm		Praxis Bowl			
1:45 pm - 2:45 pm		Student Posters 2			
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm	S35	Strengthening Executive Functions by Becoming a Predictor			Dani Pellicano
	S36	Let's Talk AAC: The What, Why, Who, Where, and How			Catherine Fredericks
	S37	The Interdisciplinary Management of Concussion Recovery: PT/OT/ SLP			Michael Heitzman Dori Cohen Allison Levin
	S38	Chew on This: A Beginner's Guide to Pediatric Feeding Therapy			Amanda Pluchino
	S39	Understanding Administrative Expectations: A Guide for School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists (from a Past-Life SLP)			Michelle Fenwick
	S40	Medical Emergencies in Audiology Offices			Robert DiSogra
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	S41	Mental Health Wellness in the Workplace: Turning a Mess into a Message			April Jewell, Heather Remo
	S42	AAC Implementation with DHH Students			Quinn Kelly
	S43	Application of AI in Communication Disorders: A Scoping Review			Siena Sun; Qiu Mengyang, Sara NassrElrgawi
	S44	Spotlight on Voice Evaluations and Voice Therapy			Amy L. Cooper, Shirley Gherson
	S45	No More Questions: Using Comments to Elicit Functional Communication			Brianna Rein
	S46	UTS Student Session: Transitioning into a School-Based Setting			Hannah Garafano Geneva Rutherford

Exhibit Hall Hours

Door Prizes will be given out at each break in the Exhibit Hall. Prizes that are not claimed during the Convention will be raffled off Friday afternoon.

THURSDAY
7:00 am – 5:00 pm

FRIDAY
8:00 am – 1:30 pm

Sponsorships Are Available!
Click **HERE** for the prospectus.

