



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 1.5 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

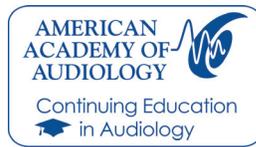


ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

New Jersey
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

This course is offered for up to 1.55 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 1.2 hours. 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



This program has been submitted for up to 12 International Hearing Society CE credits.

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

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



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

RWJBarnabas
HEALTH

Ambulatory Care
Center

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
Dr. Eric Sandler*

▶ Friday 8:45 - 10:45 am

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

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

▶ 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 16	Regular through April 10	Onsite		Early Bird through March 16	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 16	Regular through April 10		Early Bird through March 16	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.njsha.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	Beyond the Toy Bag: Using What You've Got			Jessica Steedle
	S03	School Security for Students with Exceptionalities			Thomas Gambino
	S04	Make it Visual: Neurodiversity Affirming Supports for Communication and Behavior			Beth Poss
	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			Michael Kauffman
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
	S10	You Have a Deaf Student on Your Caseload—Now What?			Jessica Holman
	S11	Building Your Private Practice in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology			Eric Sandler, Sharon Ratiner, Christina Luna
	S12	Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: an Interactive Workshop			Susan Pattay
	S13	Functional Hearing Difficulties: Detecting What the Audiogram Misses			Christina Roup
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch				
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
	S17	What's Missing From Your Pediatric Evaluation?			Megan 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
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 7:00 am - 1:30 pm					
7:00 am - 8:30 am		Membership Breakfast and Annual Meeting			
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			Stephanie Hubbell
	S30	Novel Ways AI Can Transform Clinical Supervision			Jacqueline Marchese
8:45 am - 10:15 am	S31	Challenging Hearing Aid Fittings			Kenneth A. Bodkin Elena Kagan-Weitz Dr. 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			Kenneth A. Bodkin Elena Kagan-Weitz Dr. 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
12:15 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			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 NassrElgrgawi
	S44	Spotlight on Voice Evaluations and Voice Therapy			Amy L. Cooper
	S45	No More Questions: Using Comments to Elicit Functional Communication			Brianna Rein
	S46	UTS Student Session: Transitioning into a School-Based Setting			Kenneth Harper

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
7:00 am – 1:30 pm

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

