



# KSHA 2026 CONVENTION



EMPOWERING MINDS, TRANSFORMING LIVES  
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2026

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

# JOIN US!

LEXINGTON, KY | FEBRUARY 18-20, 2026



Experience *The Essence of Communication* at the 2026 Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention!

Communication is at the heart of human connection. It is the thread that empowers minds, shapes relationships and transforms lives. As professionals in speech-language pathology and audiology, we know that the ability to communicate effectively is essential for learning, connection and personal growth. We invite you to join us in celebrating and deepening our understanding of *The Essence of Communication, Empowering Minds, Transforming Lives* at the 2026 Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, February 18-20, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Together, we will explore innovative approaches, evidence-based practices and inspiring stories that highlight the transformative power of communication in all its forms. This year's Convention will offer opportunities to learn from expert presenters, engage with emerging technologies and develop creative solutions to the challenges we face in our work. It will also be a place to share successes, network with colleagues and discover new strategies to empower those we serve.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this vibrant, passionate community working to advance the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology. Together let's harness *The Essence of Communication to Empower Minds and Transform Lives*.



Your Chairs,  
**Chelsea Graham** and  
**Brittany McAndrew**



## SPECIAL SESSION OFFERINGS

(All qualifying sessions are indicated on pages 6-7)

Each year, KSHA invites presenters to specifically help you meet licensure and ASHA special continuing education requirements. We are pleased to announce our invited presenters:

**Diversity** Wednesday 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

**Ethics** Wednesday 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

**Supervision** Wednesday 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Presented by **Sydney Bassard, MSP, CCC-SLP**

*Five Practical Steps to Foster Family Participation* (S07)

This session will cover five strategies to increase family participation by understanding how their culture influences care decisions, learning how to examine your own cultural humility and providing recommendations and treatment that align with their family values and belief systems.



Sydney Bassard

*Exploring the World of Social Media Through an Ethical Lens* (S11)

Each year, more and more professionals (SLPs and AUDs) go to social media to find community and learn how to become better at their jobs. Social media is here to stay for the time being, but professionals need to be smart consumers of information and resources presented to them.

*Building Competence and Confidence: Supervision in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology* (S06)

**Erin Pittard, MS, CCC-SLP**  
**Tammy Pierce, MA, CCC-SLP**



Erin Pittard

Tammy Pierce

This session is designed to build the capacity and confidence of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in supervisory roles across clinical and educational settings. Participants will explore strategies to effectively train and mentor graduate students during practicum placements and extend their support into the clinical fellowship year.

Sydney will also be presenting *Navigating the Path of Alphabet Learning Through Speech Sound Integration* (S16) on Thursday.

# SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

## Back By Popular Demand

### Spirit Day and Tailgate

Thursday 5:00 pm

Show your support for your favorite university team competing in the Golden Brain Competition! Wear your college gear and join us for games, fun and a bit of competitive razzing! ASHA CEUs available (S39)

### KSHA Forum - Advocacy: Establishing a Seat at the Table (S08)

Wednesday 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This session will focus on strategies and resources for advocacy within the profession of speech-language pathology and audiology and current advocacy issues. Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss current practice issues while brainstorming some possible avenues for advocating appropriately within their work setting.

### Silent Auction

Thursday 4:00 pm - 5:40 pm

Each university will be competing for the right to claim the first and second place KSHA cash awards. Please help them achieve their goal by placing a generous bid.

## Student Session

### Initial Licensure and Certification 101 (S18)

Thursday, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Presented by **KSHA President**

**Anne Blandford, SLPD, CCC-SLP**



## Poster Presentation/Competition

Thursday, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm (ASHA CEUs Available)

Deadline to submit a poster is January 7, 2026. Visit [ksha.info](http://ksha.info).

### Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation Awards

1st Place \$200 | 2nd place Award \$100

### Graduate Student Poster Presentation Awards

1st Place \$200 | 2nd place Award \$100

### Professional Poster Presentation Award \$200

Note: Scoring based on written and oral presentation. Prizes awarded to first author only.

## Lunch Options

### Grab n' Go Market

A variety of snacks, sodas, premade salads and sandwiches will be available for purchase Wednesday - Friday.

### Friday - Awards Luncheon - \$20

Preregistration is required. Be sure to purchase your ticket when registering. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase onsite. This year, attendees will enjoy a buffet.

## Continuing Education

### ASHA Continuing Education



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

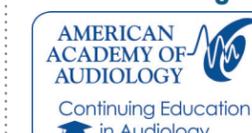
This course is offered for up to 1.95 ASHA CEUs (Various Levels).

\* The ethics session (S11) is offered separately for 0.2 ASHA CEUs. (Introductory Level)

\*The Diversity sessions (S07, S14 and S56) are offered separately for up to 0.50 ASHA CEUs. (Various Levels)

\*The supervision session (S06) is offered separately for 0.2 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate Level)

### AAA Continuing Education



Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association is approved by the American Academy of Audiology to offer Academy CEUs for this activity. The program is worth a maximum of 1.7 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



This program has been submitted for 17.0 International Society credit hours.

## New This Year - The RISE Committee Meet and Greet

Thursday, February 19 | 8:00 am - 9:00 am

The RISE Committee (Respect, Inclusion, Support and Equity, formerly DEI) invites you to join them for an opportunity to network by meeting others and sharing experiences. Coffee and light bites will be available in the room or grab your breakfast in the Exhibit Hall on Level One and join us in meeting room 8.

# HIGHLIGHTED PRESENTERS

Learn more about each presenter by visiting the KSHA website, [ksha.info](http://ksha.info)



**Kellie Banta, MA, EdD, CCC-SLP**  
(S37) 'Paw'sabilities in Therapy: Utilizing Animals in a Therapy Program



**Jen Bidelman, AuD, CCC-A**  
(S26) Creating a Sensory-Friendly Audiology Visit; (S33) Increasing Cochlear Implant Access in Rural Communities Through Collaboration



**Jennifer Blevins, MS, CCC-SLP**  
**Erin Byrd, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S61) Tips and Tricks for Navigating MTSS With Confidence



**Nick Brock, MS, CCC-SLP**  
**Tina Brock, MA, CCC-SLP**  
(S30) Supporting Students Holistically: The SLP's Role in Addressing Mental Health



**Kelsey Brown, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S27) AAC Evaluation for Toddlers and Preschoolers; (S35) Embracing Echolalia: Songs and Scripts for the Speech-Language Pathologist



**Elizabeth Burckardt, MD**  
**Lisanne Craven, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S29) Surgical and Therapeutic Options for Glottal Incompetence



**Trey Cline, PhD, AuD**  
**Kaitlyn Eichen, BS**  
(S65) Sex Hormones and the Auditory System



**Jodi Cottrell, AuD, CCC-A**  
(S03) Auditory Foundations: Supporting Spoken Language in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children



**Karen Crow, MA, CCC-SLP, MM**  
(S13) Gender Affirming Voice Care: The Speech Pathologist's Role



**Evan Cumpston, MD**  
**Hanna Messmer, AuD, CCC-A**  
**Sara Rogers, AuD, CCC-A**  
(S33) Increasing Cochlear Implant Access in Rural Communities Through Collaboration



**Kelly Curry, MCD, CCC-SLP**  
**Shea Miller, MA, EdD, CCC-SLP**  
(S63) Coffee Cart in MSD Middle and High Schools



**Taylor Denney, MA, EdD, CCC-SLP**  
(S19) AAC and GLP



**Tyler Dorsey, CALC, AAC**  
(S17) Peeling Back the Onion: Understanding the Emotional Layers of ADHD and Executive Functioning



**Rebecca Eberle, MA, CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDS, FACRM**  
(S45/S50) Social Communication Deficits in Acquired Brain Injury



**Kellie Ellis, PhD, CCC-SLP**  
(S44) Print-Rich Speech Therapy: Linking Letters and Sounds for Success



**Jeanane Ferre, PhD, CCC-A**  
(S42/S48) FAQs (And Answers) About Central Auditory Processing Disorders



**Haley Fulk, MA, CCC-SLP**  
(S28) Born This Way, Became This Way: Supporting Neurodivergence at any Stage



**Laura Galloway, AuD, CCC-A**  
(S02) Advancing Hearing Screening in Older Adults Through Public Health Initiatives



**Amy Gonshak, PhD**  
(S15) Managing Burnout for Healthcare Professionals



**Mary Gospel, PhD, CCC-SLP**  
**Laura Karcher, MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS**  
(S68) Voices Together: Enhancing Communication and Connection Through Aphasia Support Groups



**Jocylene Graham, MA, CCC-SLP**  
(S14) KEIS to Building Caregiver Rapport in Early Intervention Through Cultural Responsiveness



**Lindsey Hendricks, MSSW**  
**Lori Travis, AuD, CCC-A**  
(S22) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: Understanding Successes and Needs in Kentucky



**Haiping Huang, AuD, CCC-A**  
(S59) Listening to the Emotions in Sounds - What is Research Telling us and What Does it Mean for our Practice?



**Alice Inman, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S**  
(S60) Rethinking the Use of Thickened Liquids: A Call to Action!



**Marie Ireland, PhD, CCC-SLP, BRS-CL**  
(S04) Post-Pandemic Skill Gap and Poverty: Is it Difference or Disorder?; (S20) Catalysts for Change: Tackling 9 Challenges in School-Based SLP Practice



**Zachary La Fratta, AuD, CCC-A**  
(S05) Incorporating Transparency Verification in Remote-Microphone Fittings: From Concept to Clinical Practice



**Jennifer Lutes, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S41) Dysphagia Management in Head and Neck Cancer: Multi-Modality Approach



**Megan Mays, MS, OTR/L**  
(S51) Talk Sensory to Me ... The Relationship Between Sensory & Communication; (S56) First Regulate, Then Communicate - Integrating Sensory Into Speech Therapy for Neurodiverse Pediatric Populations



**Laura Mize, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S25/S32) 11 Skills Live! Prelinguistic Skills for Toddlers and Preschoolers



**Anne Olson, PhD, CCC-A**  
**Ian Windmill, PhD**  
(S12) Academic Perspectives on Audiology's Next Chapter



**Kathy Panther, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S34) Best Practices for Dehydration Prevention and Hydration Balance



**Alisa Sacker, MD, IBCLC**  
(S24) Unlocking Potential: Addressing Oral Ties in Early Childhood



**Sara Schneider, MS, CCC-SLP**  
**Jennifer Stanley, MA, CCC-SLP**  
(S01) AAC in Aphasia Care: Advocacy, Awareness and Therapeutic Impact



**Ciera Sherwood, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S57) Let's Play! Strategies to Confidently Use Play Therapy Everyday



**Kevin Simmons, MS, CCC-SLP**  
(S46/S52) Therapeutic Harmony: Evidence-Based Music and Sensory Interventions for Speech



**Stephanie Spires, MEd**  
(S53) What the IEP? What the Team Needs to Know to Help the Parents Understand?



**Debra Suiter, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S**  
(S21) Communicating Results of Videofluoroscopic Swallow Studies



**Kelly Vess, MA, CCC-SLP**  
(S43) Improve Speech Outcomes in Toddlers With Apraxia and Autism; (47) Books to Breakthroughs: Ignite Language Development Through Multisensory Literacy Strategies

# LEXINGTON 2026

To learn more about each session, visit [KSHA.info](http://KSHA.info)

| TIME   | SESS    | TITLE  | CONTENT AREA        | LEVEL OF LEARNING |
|--|---------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>WEDNESDAY 2/18/2026</b><br>Registration 9:00 am – 5:30 pm • Exhibits Open 11:30 am  |         |  |                     |                   |
| 10:00 am - 11:30 am  | S01     | AAC in Aphasia Care: Advocacy, Awareness and Therapeutic Impact (Stanley; Schneider)                                 | Adult SLP           | Introductory      |
|  | S02     | Advancing Hearing Screening in Older Adults Through Public Health Initiatives (Galloway)                             | Audiology           | Intermediate      |
|  | S03     | Auditory Foundations: Supporting Spoken Language in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (Cottrell)                     | Multi-Interest      | Introductory      |
|  | S04     | Post-Pandemic Skill Gap and Poverty: Is it Difference or Disorder? (Ireland)   | School Based        | Intermediate      |
| 11:45 am - 12:45 pm  | S05     | Incorporating Transparency Verification in Remote-Microphone Fittings: From Concept to Clinical Practice (La Fratta) | Audiology           | Intermediate      |
| 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm   | S06     | Building Competence and Confidence: Supervision in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (Pittard; Pierce)         | Supervision         | Intermediate      |
|  | S07     | Five Practical Steps to Foster Family Participation (Bassard)  | Diversity           | Introductory      |
|  | S08     | KSHA Forum – Advocacy: Establishing a Seat at the Table (Blandford; Roden; Hall; Haydon)                             | Multi-Interest      | Introductory      |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  | S09     | Pediatric ABI: Cognitive-Communication Evaluation and Intervention (Millward)  | Multi-Interest      | Intermediate      |
| 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm  | S10     | <b>KEYNOTE: Why Not Us: Standing With the People We Serve</b> (Thompson)   | Keynote             | Introductory      |
| 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  | S11     | Exploring the World of Social Media Through an Ethical Lens (Bassard)  | ETHICS              | Introductory      |
| <b>THURSDAY 2/19/2026</b><br>Registration: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm • Exhibits Open 8:00 am • Coffee and Light Breakfast Option Available |         |  |                     |                   |
| 9:00 am - 10:30 am   | S12     | Academic Perspectives on Audiology's Next Chapter (Windmill; Olson)  | Audiology           | Intermediate      |
|  | S13     | Gender Affirming Voice Care: The Speech Pathologist's Role (Crow)  | Adult SLP           | Intermediate      |
|  | S14     | KEIS to Building Caregiver Rapport in Early Intervention Through Cultural Responsiveness (Graham)                    | PEDs EI (Diversity) | Introductory      |
|  | S15     | Managing Burnout for Healthcare Professionals (Gonshak)  | Multi-Interest      | Introductory      |
|  | S16     | Navigating the Path of Alphabet Learning Through Speech Sound Integration (Bassard)                                  | School Based        | Intermediate      |
|  | S17     | Peeling Back the Onion: Understanding the Emotional Layers of ADHD and Executive Functioning (Dorsey)                | Multi-Interest      | Intermediate      |
|  | S18     | Initial Licensure and Certification 101 (Blandford)  | Student             | Introductory      |
| 11:00 am - 12:30 pm  | S19     | AAC and GLP (Denney)   | Multi-Interest      | Intermediate      |
|  | S20     | Catalysts for Change: Tackling 9 Challenges in School-Based SLP Practice (Ireland)                                   | School Based        | Intermediate      |
|  | S21     | Communicating Results of Videofluoroscopic Swallow Studies (Suiter)  | Adult SLP           | Intermediate      |
|  | S22     | Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: Understanding Successes and Needs in Kentucky (Travis; Hendricks)          | Audiology           | Intermediate      |
|  | S23     | From Bark to Bella (Hudson)  | Adult SLP           | Introductory      |
|  | S24     | Unlocking Potential: Addressing Oral Ties in Early Childhood (Sacker)  | Multi-Interest      | Intermediate      |
| 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm   | Posters | Poster Viewing   | Posters             | Various           |
| 1:45 pm - 3:15 pm  | S25     | 11 Skills Live! Prelinguistic Skills for Toddlers and Preschoolers, Part 1 (Mize)                                    | Multi-Interest      | Intermediate      |
| 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  | S26     | Creating a Sensory-Friendly Audiology Visit (Bidelman)   | Audiology           | Intermediate      |
|  | S27     | AAC Evaluation for Toddlers and Preschoolers (Brown)   | PEDs EI             | Intermediate      |
|  | S28     | Born This Way, Became This Way: Supporting Neurodivergence at any Stage (Fulk)                                       | Adult SLP           | Intermediate      |
| 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm  | S29     | Surgical and Therapeutic Options for Glottal Incompetence (Burckardt; Craven)  | Adult SLP           | Intermediate      |
|  | S30     | Supporting Students Holistically: The SLP's Role in Addressing Mental Health (Brock; Brock)                          | School Based        | Introductory      |
|  | S31     | There is no Money: DIY for SLPs With Complex Communicators (Hackman; Vank)   | School Based        | Introductory      |
| 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm  | S32     | 11 Skills Live! Prelinguistic Skills for Toddlers and Preschoolers, Part 2 (Mize)                                    | Multi-Interest      | Intermediate      |
|  | S33     | Increasing Cochlear Implant Access in Rural Communities Through Collaboration (Bidelman; Rogers; Messmer; Cumpston)  | Audiology           | Intermediate      |

| TIME   | SESS                | TITLE  | CONTENT AREA               | LEVEL OF LEARNING |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>THURSDAY 2/19/2026</b> <i>Continued</i>   |                     |  |                            |                   |
| 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  | S34                 | Best Practices for Dehydration Prevention and Hydration Balance (Panther)  | Adult SLP                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S35                 | Embracing Echolalia: Songs and Scripts for the Speech-Language Pathologist (Brown)   | PEDs EI                    | Introductory      |
|  | S36                 | Laryngectomy Management for the Community Speech-Language Pathologist (Zirlen; Rusco)  | Adult SLP                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S37                 | 'Paw'sabilities in Therapy: Utilizing Animals in a Therapy Program (Banta)   | School Based               | Introductory      |
| 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm  | S38                 | Beyond the Book: Using Old Lady and Other Interactive Books for Engaging Therapy (Sparks; Boothe)  | School Based               | Introductory      |
|  | Special Event + S39 | 5pm: Tailgate and Silent Auction Finale<br>6:00pm: S39 Battle for the Golden Brain Starts at 6 pm.<br>Our 2026 Master of Ceremonies is Douglas Keefe (ASHA CEUs Available) | Special Event              | Introductory      |
| <b>FRIDAY 2/20/2026</b><br>Registration: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm • Exhibits Open 7:30 am • Coffee and Light Breakfast Option Available |                     |  |                            |                   |
| 8:00 am - 9:30 am  | S40                 | Bringing Disciplinary Literacy Back Into Focus (Arndt; Davis)  | School Based               | Intermediate      |
|  | S41                 | Dysphagia Management in Head and Neck Cancer: Multi-Modality Approach (Lutes)  | Adult SLP                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S42                 | FAQs (And Answers) About Central Auditory Processing Disorders, Part 1 (Ferre)   | Audiology                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S43                 | Improve Speech Outcomes in Toddlers With Apraxia and Autism (Vess)   | PEDs EI                    | Intermediate      |
|  | S44                 | Print-Rich Speech Therapy: Linking Letters and Sounds for Success (Ellis)  | School Based               | Intermediate      |
|  | S45                 | Social Communication Deficits in Acquired Brain Injury, Part 1 (Eberle)  | Adult SLP                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S46                 | Therapeutic Harmony: Evidence-Based Music and Sensory Interventions for Speech, Part 1 (Simmons)   | Multi-Interest             | Introductory      |
| 10:00 am - 11:00 am  | S47                 | Books to Breakthroughs: Ignite Language Development Through Multisensory Literacy Strategies (Vess)  | PEDs EI                    | Intermediate      |
|  | S48                 | FAQs (And Answers) About Central Auditory Processing Disorders, Part 2 (Ferre)   | Audiology                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S49                 | Optimizing Communication for Individuals With Parkinson's Disease (Smith)  | Adult SLP                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S50                 | Social Communication Deficits in Acquired Brain Injury, Part 2 (Eberle)  | Adult SLP                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S51                 | Talk Sensory to Me ... The Relationship Between Sensory & Communication (Mays)   | Multi-Interest             | Introductory      |
|  | S52                 | Therapeutic Harmony: Evidence-Based Music and Sensory Interventions for Speech, Part 2 (Simmons)   | Multi-Interest             | Introductory      |
|  | S53                 | What the IEP? What the Team Needs to Know to Help the Parents Understand? (Spires)   | School Based               | Intermediate      |
| 11:30 am - 12:30 pm  | Special Event       | Awards Lunch, Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony  | Special Event              |                   |
| 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm   | S54                 | All the Tools in My Toolbox: My Story With Autism (Vrana)  | Multi-Interest             | Introductory      |
| 1:45 pm - 3:15 pm  | S55                 | AI in Action for School-Based SLPs (Broady; Budziak; Frank)  | School Based               | Introductory      |
|  | S56                 | First Regulate, Then Communicate - Integrating Sensory Into Speech Therapy for Neurodiverse Pediatric Populations (Mays)   | Multi-Interest (Diversity) | Intermediate      |
|  | S57                 | Let's Play! Strategies to Confidently Use Play Therapy Everyday (Sherwood)   | School Based               | Introductory      |
|  | S58                 | Let's Talk About Outcomes for Therapy With People Who Stutter (Henderson)  | Multi-Interest             | Intermediate      |
|  | S59                 | Listening to the Emotions in Sounds - What is Research Telling Us and What Does it Mean for our Practice? (Huang)  | Audiology                  | Advanced          |
|  | S60                 | Rethinking the Use of Thickened Liquids: A Call to Action! (Inman)   | Adult SLP                  | Advanced          |
|  | S61                 | Tips and Tricks for Navigating MTSS With Confidence (Byrd; Blevins)  | School Based               | Introductory      |
| 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm  | S62                 | Building Literacy Through Oral Language and Sight Word Mapping (Morgan)  | School Based               | Intermediate      |
|  | S63                 | Coffee Cart in MSD Middle and High Schools (Miller; Curry)   | School Based               | Intermediate      |
|  | S64                 | Head and Neck Cancer: A School-Based, Community Approach (Thomas)  | School Based               | Introductory      |
|  | S65                 | Sex Hormones and the Auditory System (Cline; Eichen)   | Audiology                  | Intermediate      |
|  | S66                 | Supporting Breastfeeding as a Speech Pathologist (Forston; Corman)   | PEDs EI                    | Intermediate      |
|  | S67                 | The Fundamental Framework for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children: A Model From the Child's Perspective (Embry-Wright)   | Multi-Interest             | Introductory      |
|  | S68                 | Voices Together: Enhancing Communication and Connection Through Aphasia Support Groups (Gospel; Karcher)   | Adult SLP                  | Intermediate      |



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**2026 KSHA CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION INFORMATION  
KSHA.info**



## Central Bank Center

430 West Vine Street • Lexington, KY 40507

### Sleeping Rooms

## Hyatt Regency Lexington

401 West High Street • Lexington, KY 40507

A special room rate of \$179 per night will be available until February 3, 2026 or until the room block is sold out, whichever occurs first. The Hotel is connected to the Central Bank Center.

- Book Online – **Visit [ksha.info](http://ksha.info)**
- Call – **800-233-1234**, and ask for Code G-SL26

## KEYNOTE | Wednesday 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

**Adria Thompson, MA, CCC-SLP, Presents:**



*Why Not Us: Standing With the People We Serve (S10)*

As communication experts, we work with individuals who often have powerful stories to tell, but their communication challenges can make it difficult to share those stories independently. Advocacy in our field doesn't have to mean speaking for our clients. Instead, we can remove barriers, create access and amplify their voices. Whether we are helping someone express a simple preference or supporting them in sharing their lived experience on a larger stage, we are uniquely positioned to step in and make it possible. Our clients have something to say and they deserve the chance to say it. So ... why not us?

## LUNCHEON | Friday 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

**Catlaina Vrana, Presents:**



*All the Tools in My Toolbox:  
My Story With Autism (S54)*

This session is about how we can understand, respect and utilize an individual's unique experience of communication differences and disabilities to help them achieve their best life. Foundational information about autism will be covered, including its definition and characteristics. This information is interspersed with the lived experiences of the autistic presenter. The language and labels used to describe those with developmental disabilities will be discussed: when labels are harmful and when they're helpful. The session will end on the topic of alternative communication and how we can preserve respect in communicating with people of all abilities.