

Samantha Penas, CCC-SLP, attended the University of Nebraska – Lincoln for her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She graduated in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology and in May 2014 with a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology.

Samantha has been a full-time SLP at Bryan Medical Center since April 2014. She provides patient care on the inpatient rehabilitation unit and the acute hospital units. She was promoted to assistant manager of the inpatient rehabilitation unit in January 2019. Samantha is responsible for onboarding and education of all therapy staff on the inpatient rehab unit. She is also very involved with process improvement efforts on the unit. Samantha is certified in “Training Within Industry- Job Methods” and trained in 5S LEAN strategies for process improvement. She has specialty certification in VitalStim and Lee Silverman Voice Treatment. Samantha is a lead trainer for Bryan’s Modified Barium Swallow testing procedures.



Samantha said, “I am passionate about SLP and audiology advocacy. I believe all patients/clients should have access to high quality services and all professionals should be supported in their endeavors to achieve this. As assistant manager of an inpatient rehabilitation unit, I am often involved with decisions regarding admission, discharge, billing/coding, insurance, and best practice. I will bring my experiences and knowledge to NSLHA to relentlessly pursue excellence and advocacy for the SLP and audiology profession.

I am trained in the scientific model, Plan Do Study Act (PDSA), which will be beneficial to utilize when testing change regarding NSLHA’s long-range strategic plan. For example, I will complete a root cause analysis of why Nebraska SLPs and audiologists do not belong to NSLHA. This data will help identify obstacles for growth which will assist me in developing a plan to experiment with initiatives. After conducting the experiment, I would study the results, identify new and/or eliminated obstacles and “act” again until the target condition for membership growth is attained. This method of improvement is scientifically proven to not only yield the best results but also to sustain results.”