

Michell Ruskamp, M.S., CCC-SLP, earned her Bachelor of Education degree in May 2005 and her Master of Science degree in December 2006, both from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Michell is the Assistant Director of Rehabilitative Services at Columbus Community Hospital. She has served NSLHA as the Region 3 Representative from 2012-2018 and then served as the first Vice President of Membership after the NSLHA board reorganized their leadership structure. Her VP of Membership term ended in 2020.



In 2013, Michell was selected to participate in the ASHA Leadership Program for Early Career Professionals, where her year-long project included selecting a steering committee, developing a charter, and collaborating with hospital nursing and registered dietitians to develop a nursing competency on dysphagia, dysphagia diets, and thickened liquids that has become a part of the orientation process for new nursing staff. Michell serves as the coordinator of the CCH Thrive Cancer Rehabilitation program offering rehab navigation and speech therapy to those experiencing cancer related impairments. She created and continues to lead the Rehab Services Parkinson Wellness Program and was selected to participate in the Parkinson’s Foundation Allied Team Training representing speech therapy in 2018. Michell’s leadership in the Parkinson Wellness Program has led to the CCH Rehab Services LOUD Crowd! being recognized as a model program along with two others in the nation in 2014 by the Founder and CEO of the Parkinson Voice Project, Samantha Elandary. She was invited to speak at the first Parkinson Voice Project Symposium in 2018 discussing ways to work with leadership to successfully implement LOUD Crowds at other institutions. Most recently, Michell developed, organized, and presented at the first Parkinson Wellness Symposium hosted by Columbus Community Hospital.

Michell said, “I believe that being involved in our professional organizations, especially at the local level, is a responsibility of each professional. I enjoy working with a team to advocate for SLP’s, audiologists and people with communication and hearing difficulties. I am proud of what NSLHA has accomplished and look forward to continuing the positive work.

My particular passion at the moment is in the area of advocacy, especially with reimbursement and insurance denials. I plan to use my leadership experience to find ways to partner with ASHA in order to advocate for people with voice and cognitive impairments. I am impressed with the momentum of NSLHA’s Legislative Affairs Committee with the members of our legislature and would like to continue to help membership become more comfortable with engaging members of our legislature. We have a strong membership base and would like to use my experience as past VP of Membership to continue to engage and grow our membership. The financial health of any organization is crucial, and I look forward to working with the board using my experience in program development to find creative ways to generate revenue including increasing sponsorship at convention, express to our stakeholders the value of their membership, and be fiscally responsible with NSLHA’s assets.”