



Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a great winter break. I cannot believe it has been 7 months since our last NSLDHH conference in New Mexico.

This is my first newsletter as NSLDHH President, and it is my goal to send out a newsletter at least three times a year to share news and updates.

The NSLDHH Conference in New Mexico was out of this world. The workshops were informative, I met so many wonderful people, and the staff at NMSD was phenomenal. We wanted to thank NMSD once again for being a host school.



*Dr. Eva Hartmann,
NSLDHH President
Dean of Students, DSD*

Board Members

During the NSLDHH 2023 conference, the attendees elected new board members. The new board members are:

Board Member, School	NSLDHH Board Role
Eva Hartmann, Delaware School for the Deaf	President
Wilmonda McDevitt, Texas School for the Deaf	Vice-President
Skye Dreumont, New Mexico School for the Deaf	Secretary
Dee Mills, Texas School for the Deaf	Media Specialist
Matt Kruger, Indiana School for the Deaf	Professional Development
Erin Fernsler, Delaware School for the Deaf	Resources Coordinator
Baranda Johnson, Model Secondary School for the Deaf	Certification Specialist
Peggy Ann Wenger, Texas School for the Deaf	Directory Coordinator
Mel Botterbusch-Goodall, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind	Present Conference 2025 Chair
Roddy Cabbage, New Mexico School for the Deaf	Past Conference 2023 Chair

We also wanted to thank the following past board member for their services and dedication to NSLDHH:

Deb Skjeveland, Model Secondary School for the Deaf
Frank Froehle, Maryland School for the Deaf
Kevin Boyce, Iowa School for the Deaf

Frank Turk Award



*Deb Skjeveland,
Director of Student Life,
MSSD*

Deb Skjeveland, the inaugural recipient of the Frank R. Turk Award, is acclaimed for her extensive and commendable career in the realm of student life, which is marked by a range of roles and achievements. Notable among these are her positions as Camp Lakodia Program Director, Coordinator of Residence Education at Gallaudet University, Director of Student Life at Indiana School for the Deaf, and subsequently as Director of Student Life at Model Secondary School for the Deaf.

Having served on the National Student Life for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NSLDHH) Board since 2011, Deb played a pivotal role in the organization's establishment, eventually assuming the presidency for nearly a decade. Much like Frank R. Turk, Deb underscores the significance of Student Life in deaf education, recognizing its role in fostering students' social and emotional growth beyond the confines of the classroom. Her enduring commitment is evident through her extensive experience in diverse leadership positions, reflecting a profound dedication to advancing the field of Student Life. The Frank R. Turk Award aptly recognizes Deb Skjeveland's substantial contributions and leadership in shaping the student experience within the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

~ Wilmonda McDevitt,



*Wilmonda McDevitt
NSLDHH Vice President/
Treasurer
Director of Student Life,
TSD*

In Search for a 2025 Recipient...

The Criteria:

The recipient(s) of the Frank R. Turk Award of Merit is given to an individual, group, agency, foundation, corporation, government entity, or non-profit organization who have made notable contributions relevant to the field of Student Life at schools for the Deaf and/or Deaf programs. Recipient(s) have demonstrated leadership skills in the field of Student Life, or have provided service to the organization (NSLDHH) in a variety of capacities.

The nominee must meet at least two of the following criteria: (candidate should have attended the current or past NSLDHH conference)

- Making a significant contribution leading to notable change to the profession and/or setting of Student Life
- Having made significant impact leading to students achievement
- Carrying out notable accomplishments in the field of Student Life
- Demonstrating exemplary performance in the field of Student Life
- Nominee has demonstrated leadership skills in the field of Student Life

Going Forward

The new board members enjoyed their summer break, and we finally had our first Board Meeting in September 2023. This is the first time where all board members are assigned to a specific role, so we are working on navigating it, and how to streamline it. That was our focus for this fall. Thanks to Skye, for keeping us on our toes with meeting agendas and reminders. It is our first goal to keep you informed on NSLDHH through our website, Instagram, newsletter, and webinars.

Dee has worked hard to revamp our new NSLDHH website page, and it looks great. Keep in mind, that the website is still a work in progress, but please do check it out.

Mel and Florida School for the Deaf and Blind began their planning for the June 23 – 26, 2025 conference. Mel has already done the Conference Welcome video, so do watch it and share it with your colleagues. The Board has selected November 6 – 9, 2024 to come visit FSDB for the NSLDHH Board retreat. Roddy has been a great past conference chair to assist Mel and me. In the meanwhile, Wisconsin School for the Deaf, a 2027 conference host has started planning. I admire their energy and enthusiasm. Wilmonda and I are working with Jeffery Rawlings to get a head start.

Be on the lookout for Matt Kruger's informative flyer for upcoming Webinars. If you want to be included in the email, do reach out to Peggy Ann Wenger to add your name to the email blast. If you have any questions about Student Life certification, and how to obtain it please reach out to Baranda Johnson. If you have questions, you want to ask other schools, or seek resources, reach out to Erin Fernsler. She will coordinate your questions, collect data, and send you the results. The results are shared on our NSLDHH website, www.nslldhh.com, for others to see.

As always, thank you for being a part of Student Life.
~Eva



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