



American Board of
**Child Language &
Language Disorders**

e-Newsletter • February 2018

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Letter from the Chair: NEW is the word for 2018

The American Board of Child Language and Language Disorders is excited to announce our plans for a robust 2018 year!

We are launching several exciting new initiatives and programs you should know about to include our (a) three-phase application portfolio process; (b) advanced continuing education program; and, (c) new ABCLLD logo and upcoming new webpage.

First, we are happy to announce our *new and improved* application process for specialty certification. This **three-phase application portfolio process** was developed to enhance applicant supports. It accomplishes this goal by increasing feedback to applicants following each phase ensuring approval prior to beginning the next phase. Current applicants who are in the early stages of the application process can request the option to use the three-phase application process. Contact the Board Administrator at ABCLLDInfo@gmail.com for more information on this requested option.

Second, we have launched our **advanced continuing education program** to provide expert-level course opportunities for specialists, applicants, and other speech-language pathologists who have interest in elevating their child language expertise.

Third, the ABCLLD is happy to introduce you to our **new logo**. The ABCLLD webpage, newsletter, and other materials will now incorporate our distinctive brand. Coming soon is our **new webpage** so stay tuned!

A few more facts... Our 2019 ABCLLD renewals (annual, retired, and five-year) reminder will be sent to you by email in September. Specialists, please remember to track and document your CEUs including: course title, speaker, advanced level, sponsoring organization, credits, date, and any other relevant information.

Finally, nominations will be open in March for the 2019 ABCLLD Board. Check your email inbox soon for details! Stay tuned! More to come in 2018!

Monica L. Ferguson, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL, Board Chair

Continuing Education

Complete your CEUs conveniently online through ABCLLD Board launches Advanced Learning Center

The ABCLLD is launching its new Advanced Learning Center! This new continuing education platform allows child language specialists and others access to *intermediate* and *advanced* learning programs as well as:

- Gives YOU access to live webinars and a library of recorded courses 24/7
- Helps YOU meet your CE requirements for maintaining your BCS-CL
- Helps YOU improve your knowledge and skills
- Provides YOU with 13 months of continuing education access for only \$99
 - Tell your colleagues! Anyone can use promo code "ABCLLD"

Be on the lookout for more details coming soon to your inbox. We'd love your support and hope you'll join us for the exciting launch of the ABCLLD's new Advanced Learning Center.

Don't miss our kick-off on
March 22 from noon – 1 (EST)
with inaugural speaker
Patti Prelock sharing her expertise on
Parent Training for Young Children with ASD.



Monica Ferguson, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL – Chair (Jan. '16 – Dec. '18)

Monica Ferguson is Research Associate and Co-Director/Co-Founder of the Stegner Young Writing Scholars' Institute at the University of Utah's College of Education. She also is a Faculty Associate in the Special Education Department, where she teaches language development courses; Executive Director of an educational consulting practice providing language-literacy intervention; and former school-based SLP/administrator with over 20 years of clinical language-literacy experience. Monica has served as an expert consultant and has presented widely at international/national conferences on language, literacy, and increasing academic achievement for multi-level learners in inclusive classrooms as well as successfully developed/implemented differentiated instructional literacy programs. She has also served as a consultant on several global school improvement projects for USAID and UNICEF in Tanzania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Nicaragua, providing training to speech-language pathologists and educators on effective language-literacy teaching practices. Monica is the author of an instructional program designed to prepare educators to teach language-literacy for projects sponsored by UNICEF and USAID.



Linda Schreiber, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL – Vice Chair & CE Co-Coordinator (Jan. '17 – Dec. '19)

Linda Schreiber, BCS-CL and ASHA Fellow, is a consultant and a publisher. She is CEO of Linda Schreiber & Associates and The Cognitive Press. She is also Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She has extensive experience in the school setting as a speech-language pathologist, a program administrator, and a liaison between the department of public instruction and local districts. Linda has authored and co-authored numerous publications and articles in the area of phonology, language, literacy, language analysis, phonological awareness, and adolescent language disorders.



Kathy Coufal, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL – Historian/Past Chair (Jan. – Dec. '18)

Kathy Coufal holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in speech-language pathology and is currently a Professor and Program Director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Previous to moving into higher education, Kathy spent 17 years in clinical practice, working with young children, infants, and toddlers in a variety of settings. Throughout her education and professional practice, she specialized in working with children and caregivers and professional interdisciplinary teams of educators in the processes of collaborative assessment and intervention. Kathy served as one of the original members of the Specialty Board in Child Language. She is Professor Emerita at Wichita State University where she held the position of Professor and Department Chair for 10 years.



Melissa Jakubowitz, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL – Treasurer (Jan. '12 – Dec. '18)

Melissa Jakubowitz is the owner and President of eLiveNow which provides telepractice training, consulting, and telepractice services to schools. She is a Board Certified Specialist in Child Language with extensive administrative experience having run a multi-office private practice and leading a telepractice company clinical department. Melissa has presented on a variety of issues including private practice, language disorders in school age children, and telepractice. Melissa is a former President of the California Speech Language Hearing Association and California Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists in Private Practice. She was elected to serve on the Legislative Council for 13 years and one year on the ASHA Speech Language Pathology Advisory Council. Melissa was appointed to the ASHA Board of Ethics, where she served on the Education Subcommittee and was Chair of this subcommittee in 2010. She has served as a convention program committee as well as the Topic Chair for Telepractice for two years and is currently Co-Chair for ASHA 2018. Recently, Melissa was elected to serve as the Coordinator of the SIG 18 Coordinating Committee. Melissa has received Honors of the California Speech Language Hearing Association and is a Fellow of ASHA. She was also the California recipient of the DiCarlo Award in 2013.



Carol Westby, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL – Secretary (Jan. '18 – Dec. '20)

Carol Westby's interests and experiences in child language and language disorders have involved a range of ages (infancy through college-age) and disorders (primary language impairment, language/learning disabilities [reading/writing], autism spectrum disorders, and deafness). She currently is employed by Bilingual Multicultural Services where she mentors clinical year fellows working in early intervention or public schools. In addition, she conducts continuing education workshops throughout the United States on topics such as language/literacy relationships; theory of mind development and intervention; the role of play in cognitive, social-emotional, and literacy development; assessment and development of fictional and personal narratives; and serving culturally/linguistically diverse populations. Carol edits a newsletter, *Word of Mouth*, for school SLPs. She has been principle investigator on a number of grants that supported speech-language pathology, school psychology, and special education graduate students in gaining training in working with specialized populations; and on grants designed to develop assessment protocols and model intervention practices.



Froma Roth, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL – CE Committee Member (Jan. '17 – Dec. '19)

Froma Roth is Professor Emeritus of the University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences and is an ASHA Fellow. She spends her 40-plus year career pursuing a passion for children's language development and difficulties experienced by preschool and school-age children at risk for or with language/learning disabilities. All of her research, teaching, and clinical work is guided by the research-to-practice question: How does the laboratory evidence translate into actual practice to promote children's language and literacy learning and developmental outcomes? Her numerous publications, papers, books, and presentations reflect this translational focus. She completed foundational studies that broadened the lens through which we view language development, identified the variety of communication and linguistic factors that place children at-risk for language impairments and school failure, and provided successful scaled research evidence to practical instructional methods/procedures. She often is invited to chair and participate on professional committees and task forces charged with policy-making mandates. In all professional arenas, Froma prizes collaborative teaming as the most enjoyable and productive approach to problem solving. This preference arose early in her career and remains a topmost priority today.



Trisha Self, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL – CE Co-Coordinator (Jan. '16 – Dec. '18)

Trisha Self is an Associate Professor and the Paul M. Cassat Distinguished Chair in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at Wichita State University (WSU) in Wichita, Kansas. She teaches courses, supervises, and conducts research in the area of child language disorders, specifically autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Further, she holds a BCS-CL with 30 years of experience working with children demonstrating complex communication needs, including ASD. As an Associate Professor at WSU, Trisha is committed to helping students at all levels (undergraduate and graduate) gain the knowledge and skills needed to diagnosis and treat children who have or are at risk for language delays and/or disorders. Currently, she directs a university-based autism interdisciplinary diagnostic team (AIDT), which she developed. This team, made up of eight different allied-health and education disciplines across three colleges, seeks to: identify children with significant needs, including ASD, to give them the best opportunity to function at the highest level possible; provides a diagnostic resource to the South Central Kansas area; and builds an interprofessional team of professionals within the community while providing allied health and education students the skills needed to offer appropriate services within their future community workplaces. To compliment AIDT, she has also developed an interprofessional structured learning (iSLP) program to provide treatment for those children who have been diagnosed through the diagnostic process.



Ruth Huntley Bahr, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL (Jan. '18 – Dec. '20)

Ruth Huntley Bahr is a Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Associate Dean for the Office of Graduate Studies at the University of South Florida. She is an ASHA Fellow, a Fellow of the International Society of Phonetic Sciences (ISPhS), and a member of the inaugural cohort of Child Language Board Specialists. She has co-edited two books and published chapters and peer-reviewed articles in clinical phonology, dialectal variations/bilingualism, spelling, and writing. Recent research involves characterizing the spelling errors of school-age children who are typically developing or diagnosed with specific learning disabilities during authentic writing tasks, as well as dialectal/second language influences on literacy. Bahr was past Editor of *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*. She currently serves on the Editorial Board for *Topics in Language Disorders* and the *Journal of Research in Reading*.



Lisa Peay – Consumer Member (Jan. – Dec. '18)

Lisa Peay grew up in a neighborhood rich with diversity in Southern California. Relocating to Utah, she continued as a small business owner, in addition to directing the American Cancer Society in Utah County and overseeing patient service programs and fundraising. She is a passionate defender of every child's right to respect and a proper education. Lisa has long been an advocate for the under-served and over-looked. One quote that provides Lisa with daily inspiration is: "Find your voice and inspire others to find theirs." In her personal life, Lisa has always enjoyed gardening, cooking, and surprising her grandchildren with unique gifts. She is a dedicated wife, mother, sister and friend who has given much of her life to public and social service. She looks forward to her time with ABCLLD and the good that they can do together.



Specialist Spotlight/News You Can Use

Congratulations to recently named Board Certified Specialist in Child Language (BCS-CL)

Michelle E. Garcia, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL



Michelle Garcia is a New Mexico-licensed, bilingual (English/ASL), speech-language pathologist with over nine years of specialty clinical experience. Michelle has worked extensively with both pediatric and IDD adult populations. She spent many years serving D/HH children in the school system, leaving to pursue her dream of owning a private practice in 2017. Michelle especially loves working with individuals with language disorders, hearing loss, challenging behaviors, and special needs through in-person office visits and telepractice. Michelle received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Master of Science in Communication Disorders with an emphasis in pediatrics from Arizona State University. She loves spending time in the great outdoors with her husband and son. In her down time, you may find her trail running for charity, rock climbing, mountain biking, skiing, or stand-up-paddle boarding in the Santa Fe area. She is humbled to join this group of distinguished professionals and excited at the opportunity to learn from you all.

Hopefully you caught the new addition to the ABCLLD on this newsletter's front page. If not, check out the recently created, official logo of the American Board of Child Language and Language Disorders!

The ABCLLD is proud to unveil this new symbol after much time and effort was dedicated to designing a logo to fully represent and better identify the advanced skills, knowledge, and leadership of its specialists.



Along with the launch of the new three-phase application process and Advanced Learning Center (read more on page 1), 2018 marks the start of an exciting new chapter for the ABCLLD. We are thrilled to showcase this new logo as another example of securing the foundations for the Board's framework, and promising future.

Advanced Knowledge, Skills, & Leadership

The mission of the **American Board of Child Language and Language Disorders (ABCLLD)** is to promote high quality services to children and adolescents ages birth through 21 years whose language learning may be characterized as typical, at-risk, or atypical. The ABCLLD is approved by the Council for Clinical Certification.

The ABCLLD e-Newsletter is created and distributed regularly for specialists. For more information, visit www.childlanguagespecialist.org or contact the Board Administrator at ABCLLDInfo@gmail.com.