

My name is Brenda Fields Cross, and I am proud to announce my candidacy as Vice President of Audiology for the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association. If elected, it is my goal to empower clinical audiologists and collaborate with speech-language pathologists through TSHA to ensure communication access to all persons with communication needs.

I am a Texas Panhandle native and mother of two sons. I have felt called to serve the hearing needs of rural Texas since I was 9 years old. I am a proud Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center alumna and have practiced clinically for over 16 years. Early in my career, I served rural Texas as a clinical audiologist at West Texas Rehab Center in Abilene. I then had the pleasure of working with otolaryngologists and nurses at Quail Creek Ear Nose Throat Center in Amarillo. There, I developed and ran a complete hearing and vestibular clinic for patients in the Texas Panhandle across the lifespan. In 2011, my passion for teaching and clinical practice led me to a clinical professorship at West Texas A&M University. In 2013, I was appointed department chair.

My current position requires clinical and leadership skills. In my appointment as department chair, I have led a team of exceptional educators and clinicians to develop and sustain a billing speech and hearing clinic. Our university clinic simultaneously serves patients and trains future professionals. In addition to managing my hearing and balance patients, I must collaborate with other department chairs, manage budgets, identify problems, and propose solutions for my department, college, and university. I am active in my community including serving on committees for medical pediatric services at Turn Center and Special Olympics. I have also previously served on several TSHA committees.

I am now ready to serve TSHA and audiologists across the state of Texas. As Vice President of Audiology, I will work to ensure audiologists' perspectives and voices are heard for programming as well as engagement within the organization. I hope to promote more student involvement in audiology. Furthermore, I hope that audiologists will collaborate with our speech-language pathology colleagues for adequate legislation regarding reimbursement as well as access to services in the state. I believe that as Vice President of Audiology, I will represent the field of audiology in Texas, advocate for rural health, and support clinicians and students as they serve patients across Texas.