

# STRENGTH IN SUPPORT: UNDERSTANDING THE SLP IDENTITY AND THOSE WHO SHARE IT



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

Pennsylvania  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

Introductory Level

.1 Supervision ASHA CEUs

**PATRICIA LEA LAWTON,  
PHD, CCC-SLP-L**

## **Learning Objectives:**

- Define professional identity and describe how it is verified.
- Identify factors in the environment that influence the professional identity verification process.
- Identify strategies to enhance professional identity within the workplace.



## **Course Abstract**

The professional identity of speech-language pathologists is a dynamic, relational process shaped by our personal and professional values and highly influenced by the environments in which we work. Strength in Support: Understanding the SLP Identity and Those Who Share IT will present qualitative research findings on the factors that impact the professional verification process of speech-language pathologists working in the schools and early intervention. These findings also have implications for those working in other settings. Emphasis is placed on recognizing the shared responsibility of reinforcing professional identity. This research emphasizes that professional identity is not merely an individual construct but a collective strength - sustained through shared understanding among SLPs and those who support their work.

## **Speaker Bio**

Dr. Patricia Lawton is an Assistant Professor of Speech-Language Pathology at Commonwealth University/Bloomsburg. She has over 32 years of experience in the field working in a variety of medical and educational settings. Patricia holds a Ph.D. in Administration and Leadership Studies and has used leadership and sociological theory to study the professional identity of speech-language pathologists in the state of Pennsylvania.

## **Speaker Disclosures**

Patricia Lawton is a member of PSHA and sits on the Higher Education and Government Relations Committees. Patricia is faculty at the Commonwealth University of PA/Bloomsburg.