

Letters of Support:

THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SCIENCES AND DISORDERS
SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER

March 29, 2018

Educational Audiology Association
700 McKnight Park Drive
Suite 708
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

To: Members of the Noel D. Matkin Review Committee:

I am writing to support the project proposed by Kim Ward, Au.D. CCC-A, from The University of Southern Mississippi and Rebecca Lowe, Au.D. CCC-A, from The University of Mississippi. Their primary goal is to increase both the amount and quality of audiological support for children with hearing loss in the Mississippi public schools. They are proposing a pilot project that provides a full range of educational audiology services using a hybrid approach of in-person services and telepractice services. The on-site audiologist will monitor personal hearing devices, make programming changes, assess and monitor classroom noise levels, and train and help in hearing screenings. The audiologist providing services via telepractice will help with IEP development, individual teacher training, in-services for school personnel, etc. With the partnership between the on-site and off-site audiologists, the on-site audiologists will have reduced the responsibilities in each school, allowing them to serve more schools.

Mississippi, like many states with largely rural communities, has difficulty providing adequate audiological services for children in the schools. The telepractice method for providing audiological services holds great promise for addressing this problem. This project will help meet the educational needs of children with hearing loss and will, in turn, improve their quality of life. Thank you for considering funding this project.

Sincerely,

Ann Michael, Ph.D.
Interim Chair



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES
118 College Drive #5092 | Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Phone: 601.266.5216 | Fax: 601.266.5224 | www.usm.edu/shs

March 27, 2018

Educational Audiology Association
700 McKnight Park Drive
Suite 708
Pittsburgh, PA 12357

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing in support for Kimberly Ward's selection as the recipient of the Noel D. Matkin Award for her project entitled "An Educational Audiology Model for Mississippi: Telepractice Plus Direct Service Provision". Her project is of great need and has the potential to improve outcomes of children with hearing loss within our state. This proposed project is the first of its kind in increasing educational audiology services within the state of Mississippi, and Kim is devoted to its implementation and follow-through. If funded, the project will not interfere with any of Kim's current responsibilities or commitments and will not present a conflict of interest.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lee Terrio, Ph.D., CCC-A
Associate Professor/Audiology Program Director
Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences
Lee.terrio@usm.edu
(P) 601-266-5232 (F) 601-266-5224