



NSDA LEAD Program Letter of Welcome

Welcome, NSDA Support Network Leaders, to our inaugural Virtual Lead Program (Leadership Education Awareness Development). We are happy that you joined us. This 75-minute leadership mini-course will be interactive and based on topics from your feedback received following our previous 17 annual Leadership Workshops. We want to bring our leaders together more often during the year. Our goal is to continue to build momentum in our NSDA community and to provide more opportunities for engagement and learning from one another.

We will include the following topics during this meeting:

- Advice for people who are newly diagnosed with voice disorders
- Introduction of a meeting technique known as Chatterfall
- Suggestions for Returning to In-Person Meetings
- New event submission process to promote meetings
- Open forum for discussion

Regardless of your leadership role in the NSDA or the length of your tenure, you have an important role to play in our patient-driven organization. According to Wikipedia, the beehive teaches us that we ought to be industrious, not standing idly by or gazing with indifference if it is in our power to help. After serving the NSDA since 2005 as Support Services Director, I know first-hand that this describes our tireless and selfless NSDA support network leadership volunteers.

I want to thank the Planning Committee of our LEAD programs who serve seamlessly with me: Eastern Region & Canada Representative, Carol Doles; Executive Director, Kimberly Kuman; and Program Manager, Nancy Panos. There is synergy when we come together because our collaboration produces a combined effect far greater than the sum of our parts. I conclude with the words of leadership author, Robert Staub: “You are important and you make a difference. What we are doing matters. Together, we can do the extraordinary.”

Mary Bifaro

NSDA Support Services Director