

Rebecca Gonzalez
Communication Disorders Consultant, LLC
8203 Augusta Pines Pkwy West
Spring, TX 77389

July 5, 2011

Re: Pre-tenure Review
Lynette Austin, Ph.D.

To Whom It May Concern:

It's with pleasure that I share my knowledge of the contributions that Dr. Austin, a respected colleague, has made to the profession of speech-language pathology. I met Dr. Austin while attending meetings of the Bilingual Assessment Leadership Group shortly after moving to Houston in 1998. This group included assessment specialists, speech-language pathologists, and school psychologists interested in work with culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Dr. Austin's leadership and expertise were immediately apparent. A suggestion by Dr. Austin that the speech language pathologists attending the meetings have time to convene separately during the all day sessions to discuss concerns particular to our field brought us together. Dr. Austin provided the leadership needed during those sessions. Her knowledge on this subject and the passion she displayed earned my admiration.

As Chair of the TSHA Cultural & Linguistic Diversity Task Force (CLD TF) in 2003, I asked Dr. Austin to participate as a founding member and three years later I had the privilege of co-chairing the task force with her. As a member of the CLD TF and a member of TSHA CLD Companion to the Articulation Eligibility Template Task Force, Dr. Austin unselfishly volunteered her time as these groups required her expertise in the field of cultural and linguistic diversity. Dr. Austin demonstrated a strong work ethic and a collaborative spirit, allowing us to meet our task force goals each year. Major accomplishments included the development of a document for the TSHA membership on assessment and intervention of CLD populations and creation of statewide eligibility guidelines in the area of articulation for assessing individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Additionally, the CLD Task Force chose to enhance the knowledge of the TSHA membership by focusing on university efforts to educate students on the assessment of the CLD population. At the TSHA 2006 convention the CLD TF hosted a luncheon for clinical and academic university faculty representatives, creating an opportunity to dialogue and share ideas concerning how to address CLD issues within each program. A student event was held at the TSHA 2008 convention which provided an open forum for discussion. Dr. Austin served as one of the moderators at each event. Both gatherings were very successful given the enthusiasm and initiative of Dr. Austin and proved to be a wonderful venue for sharing new and creative ideas as well as reaching a new generation of TSHA members.

Given our shared interests, Dr. Austin and I have spent many hours developing presentations for various groups of speech language pathologists on a statewide level. The credit for creative ideas for each presentation goes to Dr. Austin.

It has been a privilege working with this gifted and talented individual. If I can provide further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gonzalez, MS/CCC-SLP

Rebecca Gonzalez, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
Clinical Educator, University of Houston