Dr. Felicia Rutledge – NVBDA

* Panelist Introductions (Nevada Black Deaf Advocates, Felicia Rutledge, Ph.D., and Treasurer/Board Member).
* Please prepare to respond in 2 minutes or less for each question. All questions may not be addressed during our panel session.

1.     What is the biggest challenge in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community at the moment from your organization’s perspective?

* Education to include just and equitable programming for Deaf/Hard of Hearing learners particularly those who are within the intersections (dual diagnosis/eligibility, BIPOC, LGBTQIA, cultural and/or ethnic values, etc.)

2.     What are the legislative issues facing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and what changes need to be made?

a.     What are the most critical changes that we must make to face the future effectively?

* Education initiatives for Teacher of the Deaf recruitment and retention
* Education initiatives for enhancing and advancing educational outcomes of our Deaf/Hard of Hearing Learners

3.     What are common issues that prevent people from being advocates for themselves or for the community? - Intersectionality, lack of awareness/ knowledge

a.     What is one piece of practical advice you would give to someone starting out as an advocate?

* Increase awareness
* advocate from a place of passion
* create connections

4.     How do we include the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in planning for the legislative changes?

* Build a community with Deaf/Hard of Hearing
* Increase knowledge and education about policy