



## RID-NCIEC MENTORING GRANTS



### **Potomac Chapter RID (PCRID) Mentorship Program Grant Update**

*Susan Wells, NAD IV, PCRID's Mentorship Program Chair*

In August 2008, the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (PCRID) was awarded a grant to support the PCRID Mentorship Program.

#### **Background**

In 2006, PCRID began a journey with a vision of life-long learning and development at every phase of our careers. This vision can become reality by providing support for interpreters at any level through mentorship.

PCRID's Mentorship Program's goal is to improve the quality of interpreting services to our consumers by increasing the pool of qualified deaf and hearing interpreters. PCRID believes that an effective way to expand and retain qualified interpreters is through ongoing mentorship.

#### **Mentor Training**

In order to begin this process, we established training that would bring a unified philosophy to PCRID approved mentors. We are in the first phase of this process that began with training mentors in February 2007. We are fortunate to have Betty Colonomos facilitate this innovative training that she has developed.

Currently, PCRID is implementing this mentorship program through a multi-phase process. PCRID convened a committee on mentorship (Winter 2006). This committee has offered two trainings titled "Enhancing the Mentorship Experience" in winter 2007 and fall 2008. These trainings have been offered to CDIs and hearing interpreters. PCRID is currently developing supplementary components such as, general professional development workshops for CDI and hearing interpreters, spot light groups (focus groups) on specific topics, a mentor database, and language mentoring.

"Enhancing the Mentorship Experience" is for interpreters who have expressed interest in becoming mentors. This training is three separate three-day sessions (total 20 hours), one CDI track, one hearing interpreter track, and one combined deaf/hearing mentor track, for a total of nine days of training that will be expanded as the program grows.

Once the interpreter has completed the mentorship training, they will be invited to post to our database of mentors. This database will be accessible via the PCRID website home page. The goal of the database is to have future mentees be able to search to find a suitable mentor. The mentee and mentor can then discuss what that mentee is looking for in a mentor/mentee relationship.

### Mentee

Next, PCRID will have an outreach initiative to let interpreters know that this program is available and ready to begin the process of mentorship.

### Support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank RID and The National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC) for the financial support they have given PCRID. The mentoring grant funds will allow PCRID to continue their commitment to the Deaf and hearing communities and the interpreting field to enhance the skills of those in the field. I would also like to thank the PCRID board for supporting the efforts of this committee. PCRID has many ideas that they would like to see added to this program, and I look forward to reporting these improvements to you in the near future.

If anyone would like to discuss or get involved with the PCRID Mentorship Program, please contact Susan Wells at [mentorship@pcrid.net](mailto:mentorship@pcrid.net) or by phone at (410) 456-0482.