

RID-NCIEC Mentoring Grant for Tennessee

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The mentoring program offered through the Chattanooga Chapter of Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (CCTRID) was awarded grant monies from RID-NCIEC through Tennessee RID to establish a pilot mentoring program. The program is in the final stages.

Phase Five- (October 2007 – June 2008) Mentor and mentee monthly meetings. The minimum is one monthly meeting for an hour. Mentors and mentees can meet additional times depending on schedule.

Phase Six- (June – July 2008) Evaluation and assessment of program to determine if objectives were met and assess modifications to the program.

The mentors and mentees have consecutively met over the past eight months to work on interpreter's individual needs. The goal of the program was to work on the interpreter's language skills. The mentors and mentee met each month to discuss the progress made and inquire about additional skills to improve. Comments from the mentees regarding the program were overwhelmingly positive. Mentees were impressed with how the program afforded them opportunities to learn about the many resources available to them including the Nashville Library for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Web sites like www.asl.pro.com. These are resources that will continue to benefit the mentees as they progress in their development. Another goal of the program was for the mentees to work toward certification. Two out of the ten mentees have taken the written portion of the EIPA and are awaiting their scores. There are additional mentees who are also preparing to take the EIPA written exam within the next few months. Additionally, mentees responded

very favorably to the many networking opportunities afforded them. The mentors have also become actively involved in the local RID chapter and seek opportunities to improve the organization for the whole community.

As part of the mentoring program, the CCTRID mentorship committee, along with the local chapter executive board, joined with co-sponsor Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to offer a two-day workshop in February 2008 at the Chattanooga State Technical Community College. The workshop was presented by Greg Camp of Sign Language Associates. He presented two workshops titled *Mentoring Me!* and *Capturing the Flag*. The workshops were well attended by mentor/mentee participants and community interpreters. Many of the mentees commented that after attending the *Mentoring Me!* workshop they felt inspired and motivated.

The Mentor Program participants recently met as a group to discuss the participants' experience. Overall, the mentees and mentors stated that they felt that the program was very beneficial to them. They felt they had built relationships with more interpreters in the community and that mentees had a supportive mentor. Suggestions for future mentor programs include more workshops and learning opportunities scheduled on a monthly basis. Additionally, the mentees requested more training on the forefront regarding the peer mentoring method. In the future, more emphasis will be placed on explaining the methodology behind peer mentoring and the importance of the mentee being able to self-evaluate and develop plans. Overall, the program was very successful in our first year and we hope to continue to offer a mentoring program to support the needs of the interpreting population in our surrounding area. Thanks to RID for the support of the RID-NCIEC Mentorship Grant award. ■

The National office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, October 13: Columbus Day

Tuesday, November 11: Veterans Day

Thursday, Friday, November 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, Friday, December 25-26: Christmas Holiday

Thursday, Friday, January 1-2: New Year Holiday

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