



# The National Consortium

*of Interpreter Education Centers*

**Creating Opportunities for Interpreters and Interpreter Educators**

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## **Deaf Advocacy Training**

In keeping with RSA priorities, the overarching purpose of the Deaf Advocacy Training work team is to enhance the Deaf Community's experience, effectiveness and utilization of interpreting services. The goal of DAT is to increase the Deaf Community's ability to self-advocate for effective communication by participating in educational training opportunities that are culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate. The Deaf Advocacy work team fully appreciates that the expertise to carry such an initiative lies within the Deaf Community. DAT has contracted with Deaf-owned and operated agencies and businesses to identify the most effective way to provide this type of training, develop the curriculum and implement the training.

The Deaf Advocacy Training team has completed "The Case for Deaf Self-Advocacy Training: The Need for a National Curriculum on Communication Access." This report shares the outcomes of the work conducted by the DAT work team between 2006 and 2008 to determine the need for deaf self advocacy training, as well as identify the current and best practices around this topic to ensure the development of an effective curriculum. More specifically, this document reports the findings of three major undertakings by the DAT work team towards this determination and identification over the two year period.

This report includes the findings of CSD (formerly Communication Service for the Deaf) of South Dakota's data collection efforts identifying the Deaf Community's needs in relation to self-advocacy education, and the best means of delivering such information. It also includes an annotated bibliography on Deaf Advocacy. This resource, completed by T.S. Writing Services, supported the findings of CSD, further validating both the need for training and the tools to ensure an effective training product. The final section of this report shares the findings of a survey of state vocational rehabilitation counselors.

This report is available on our website: [www.nciec.org](http://www.nciec.org)

The Deaf Advocacy Training team has also completed the Deaf Advocacy Training curriculum, conducted two master training workshops and is engaged in consumer trainings throughout the United States. This curriculum is designed to provide a thorough overview of many issues related to advocacy, with practical, hands-on application of skills to common scenarios. The curriculum is now available. To request a copy of the curriculum (a CD/DVD set), or obtain more information about this team Email [pgannarino@aol.com](mailto:pgannarino@aol.com).