

# NCIEC – Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Workteam Council of Advisors April 6th Update

Monthly Journal

Issue 03 April 6, 2010

This issue:

- Welcome!
- Deaf Interpreter
- Upcoming events
- Conferences

## Welcome to the April 6th edition of the Council of Advisors E-Communicator!

Council of Advisor Members,

Welcome to the April 6th edition of the Linguistic and Cultural Diversity E-Communicator. We are quickly moving to conference season with several member conferences taking place this summer as well as RID regional conferences. NCIEC will present workshops at several Council member conferences as well as at RID Regional Conferences. We hope that you and your constituencies will join us!

***The Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Work team of the NCIEC will host a Council meeting at the Deaf People of Color Conference*** which happens June 24 – 27, 2010 in Portland, Oregon. Please look for an initial communication from us regarding best time to meet as well as who will be attending.

In addition, members of the Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Work team will host meetings with individual Council member organizational leaders at both the NCHDHH and NAOBI Conferences. Please join us for a rich discussion!

The Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Work team will also host a Council meeting at the NAD conference. Again, please look for an invitation from us regarding the meeting.

This month's journal highlights the Deaf Interpreter Workteam, its activities and website ... [DIInstitute.org](http://DIInstitute.org). Deaf Interpreting is a new area of research, exploring the work and training needs of Deaf Interpreters. It lays the groundwork for educational programming of future Deaf Interpreters. Please read about this exciting work! As always, we encourage you to share this e-journal with your membership.

Warm Regards,

Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Work team

## Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Workteam

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[Click here for ASL version](#)



## The NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Work-Team

I am Steven Collins, member of the NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Work Team and I would like to share with you about the investigations we have conducted on Deaf Interpreter (DI) practice:

- We convened an expert group of DI practitioners, researchers, and educators.
- We undertook a review of the literature on the Deaf Interpreter.
- We conducted focus groups comprising 26 Deaf Interpreters.
- We conducted focus groups comprising 12 DI Educators.
- We collected data through a national survey including 298 Deaf Interpreter respondents.
- We evaluated a DI training program.
- We conducted a review of the RID Certified Deaf Interpreter test and made recommendations to RID on necessary steps to improve the process for Deaf test-takers.

The following are key findings from the investigations we conducted:

- Deaf Interpreters tend to share common characteristics, in particular the formative “Deaf-World” experiences that comprise their ethics, language, and cultural fluency.
- Deaf Interpreter competencies differentiate from those of hearing ASL-English interpreters in three key areas: 1) Consumer Assessment, 2) Language, Communication and Culture, and 3) Interpreting Practice. These competencies should be built upon a foundation of generalist competencies required of all interpreters, and specialty training for such areas as healthcare, legal, etc. must be pursued by Deaf Interpreters who wish to practice in these realms.
- While Deaf Interpreters work across the full gamut of interpreting venues, the most common are social services and healthcare (i.e. medical & mental health).
- Deaf Interpreters work primarily in a combination of ASL and visual gestural communication.
- More than half of Deaf Interpreters provide services using close vision and tactual signing with individuals who are Deaf-Blind.
- Most Deaf Interpreters work in tandem with a hearing interpreter; however 29% work alone with certain consumers and in certain settings.
- Some of the barriers to effective DI education programming include the lack of work opportunities, attitudes of hearing interpreters towards working with Deaf interpreters, Deaf people becoming interpreters without a solid understanding of the linguistics of their own language, the unrealistic expectations of some participants who may not have the language skills to become an effective DI, and funding to support training.
- Deaf Interpreter educators see the need for a standardized approach to training that could be offered at centers throughout the United States.
- There is a great need for public education about the needs and benefits of using Deaf Interpreters.
- There is a need for a venue for networking and exchange of information for the professional community of Deaf Interpreters.
- There is a need for ongoing research to inform Deaf Interpreter education practices.

**If you would like more information about Deaf Interpreter Practice, please visit [DIInstitute.org](http://DIInstitute.org) where you can find all of our products: Study results, annotated bibliography, case study, and other valuable resources.**

*Council of Advisor  
Member*

*Organizations*

**American Association of the Deaf-Blind**

**Interpreters of Asian descent  
Representatives**

**American Indian representatives**

**Mano a Mano**

**National Asian Deaf Congress**

**National Association of Black  
Interpreters**

**National Association of the Deaf**

**National Black Deaf Advocates**

**National Council of Hispanic Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing**

**Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf**

- **Diversity Committee**
- **LGBT member section**

## Upcoming NCIEC Events/Presentations

*Please join us! See the below links for additional information.*

### **National Symposium on Video Interpreting: The State of the Practice and Implications**

May 23 – 25, 2010, Gallaudet University

Additional information: <http://guriec.gallaudet.edu/GURIEC/NEW.html>

### **National Symposium on Healthcare Interpreting**

July 19 – 21, 2010, CATIE Center at St. Catherine University

Additional information: [Health Care Symposium Flyer](#)

[www.stkate.edu/catie](http://www.stkate.edu/catie)

## Upcoming Regional Conferences

*Please join us for the NCIEC presentations!*

### **Region 1**

August 13-15, 2010

Albany Marriott, Albany, NY

<http://www.vtrid.org/region1conf.htm>

### **Region 2**

July 29 - August 1, 2010

Chattanooga, TN

[http://www.rid.org/member\\_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/141](http://www.rid.org/member_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/141)

### **Region 3**

July 21-24, 2010

Sofitel, Bloomington, MN

[http://www.rid.org/member\\_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/142](http://www.rid.org/member_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/142)

### **Region 4**

August 5-8, 2010

Omaha, NE

[http://www.rid.org/member\\_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/143](http://www.rid.org/member_center/chapters/index.cfm/AID/143)

### **Region 5**

June 16-20, 2010

Marriott City Center, Salt Lake City, UT

<http://www.utrid.org/regionv/>



Gallaudet University

National Symposium on

# Video Interpreting

*The State of the Practice and Implications*

**May 23–25, 2010**

Gallaudet University

Kellogg Conference Center & Hotel

Washington, DC

***Exploring the rapidly changing  
world of interpreters working  
across video connection . . .***

**Hosted by Gallaudet University Regional Interpreter Education Center**

For more information, please view <http://guriiec.gallaudet.edu>

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## **Conferences:**

### **National Council of Hispanic Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

#### **Second National Conference**

May 6 – 8, 2010, Chicago, Ill

### **Deaf People of Color Second National Conference**

June 24 – 27, 2010, Portland, Oregon

### **NAOBI 2010 Biennial Professional Development Conference**

"Running with the Vision: Empower. Educate. Excel."

June 24 – 27, Phoenix, Arizona

### **National Association of the Deaf**

50<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

July 6 – 10, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### **Sacred Circle Celebration**

Chinook Winds

September 15 – 18, 2010, Lincoln City, Oregon

Send announcements of upcoming events to: Mary Lightfoot /Lillian Garcia – Co-chairs of the Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Workteam of the NCIEC.

E-blast feedback to: Mary Lightfoot – [Mary.Lightfoot@gallaudet.edu](mailto:Mary.Lightfoot@gallaudet.edu)

**Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Workteam**

**Online Communication with Council of Advisors**

**April 30th to feature: Healthcare Interpreting**