

History of NTID Interpreter Training and Education

Presented for
PEN-International

By

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Peter Peterson, a Deaf teacher at the Minnesota School for the Deaf, wrote in 1930....

"A national technical institute for the deaf...located in a large manufacturing city, is what deaf young America needs more than anything else..."

...such an institution should include several buildings filled with modern machines, appliances, tools, materials, dormitories...a gymnasium, library, tennis courts, trees, shrubs, flowers, a director...a staff of competent instructors, and 500 students.

...A dream, yes, and a possibility."

National Technical Institute for the Deaf Act - 1965

- Public Law 89-36
- Final bill drafted by Congressman Hugh Carey of New York State
- Signed into law by President of the United States, Lynden B. Johnson
- Over 20 Colleges and Universities applied to host NTID on their campus and to include Deaf students in their programs

Rochester Institute of Technology

- Over 137 years of history as a technical school
- Specialization in professional and technological education
- Strong cooperative work experiences
- Rochester Community highly receptive
- Large Deaf Community

RIT Mission

- ...provide technology based education programs for lifelong career development
- ...teaching, learning and scholarship – central enterprise
- ...pursue new and emerging career areas
- ...develop curricula in response to changing technology and social conditions
- ...maintain internal and external partnerships

NTID Mission

- ...provide Deaf students technical and professional education programs
- ...prepare Deaf students to live and work in the mainstream
- ...prepare professionals to work in fields related to deafness
- ...support applied research designed to enhance social, economical and educational accomodations of Deaf people
- ...provide outreach and information dissemination

1968 – First Class of 70 Deaf Students

- Immediate need for Sign Language Interpreters
- CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults) and TODs (Teachers of the Deaf) became de-facto Interpreters on volunteer basis
- 1969 – first training program - Basic Interpreter Training Program (BITP) with 15 RIT students
- 10 week summer intensive
- Trained over 500 interpreters

U.S. Government Legislation

- 1973 – Rehabilitation Act
- 1975 – Education for All Handicapped Children Act now called Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- 1990 – Americans with Disabilities Act

Increased Demand for Interpreters Nationally

- K – 12 Settings (Mainstreaming, Inclusive Education and “No Child Left Behind”)
- Post Secondary Programs
- Community events, jobs, services, etc.

Increased Demand for Trained and Qualified Interpreters

NTID Responded with:

- 1982 – Associate of Applied Science Degree – AAS (2 years)
- 2001 – Bachelor of Science Degree - BS (4 years)
- 2007 – 135 students enrolled in the ASL/English Interpretation Program

Future of Interpreting Education in the United States

- By 2012 Bachelor of Science degree required for Educational Interpreters
- New York State and NYS Department of Education with Technical Assistance Center and NTID/ASLIE
- Northeastern University Regional Interpreter Education Center and NTID/ASLIE
- National Consortium of Interpreter Education Center and NTID/ASLIE

Conference of Interpreter Trainers Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf American Sign Language Teachers Association

- National Professional Organizations with regional and state chapters
- Establishment of National Standards for training of Interpreters and ASL Teachers and for certifying Interpreters and ASL teachers
- Establishment of interpreting and ASL skill development outcomes

Rochester Institute of Technology Curriculum

- Technical Education
- Mathematics and the Sciences
- Liberal Arts Foundation (Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Life Long Learning Skills
- Career Preparation

ASL-English Interpretation Curriculum

- 185 total credits (90 are General Education credits and 95 are program credits)
- Math and Science courses - required
- Writing, Social Sciences and Humanities courses – required
- Courses in major area of study - required

NTID Interpreting Education Program is Unique!

- Largest Interpreting Education Program
- On RIT campus with over 1100 Deaf students enrolled
- Nationally recognized faculty
- Comprehensive curriculum
- Extensive practicum (work study) opportunities

- Small language and interpreting classes
- State of the art audio-visual lab
- Over 125 professional interpreters on campus
- 97% employment rate upon graduation
- Rochester Deaf Community - over 5,000
- Numerous community organizations and events run by Deaf Community
- Over 400 professional interpreters work in Rochester Community

Course Mask First Year

Fall Quarter

- **ASL I**
- Writing Seminar I
- Humanities
- Math
- First Year Experience I

Winter Quarter

- **ASL II**
- Social Science
- Humanities
- Math
- First Year Experience II

Spring Quarter

- **ASL III**
- Social Science
- Math/Science
- **General Education elective**

Course Mask Second Year

Fall Quarter

- ASL IV
- Introduction to Interpreting
- Science
- General Education Elective

Winter Quarter

- ASL V
- Fingerspelling and Numbers Development
- Science
- Writing

Spring Quarter

- ASL VI
- Processing Skills Development
- Deaf Culture and Community
- General Education Elective

Course Mask Third Year

Fall Quarter

- English to ASL Interpreting I
- ASL to English Interpreting I
- Interpreting Elective
- Liberal Arts Concentration

Winter Quarter

- Practical and Ethical Issue in Interpreting
- English to ASL Interpreting II
- ASL to English Interpreting II
- Liberal Arts Concentration

Spring Quarter

- Interactive Interpreting
- Interpreting Elective
- Liberal Arts Concentration
- General Education Elective

Course Mask Fourth Year

Fall Quarter

- English to ASL III
- ASL to English III
- General Education Elective
- Free Elective

Winter Quarter

- Practicum and Seminar I
- General Education Elective
- Free Elective

Spring Quarter

- Practicum and Seminar II
- Issues in Interpreting
- Free Elective

Curriculum Electives Taught in ASLIE

- Interpreting in the Health Care Field
- Educational Interpreting
- Community Interpreting
- Interpreting Frozen Texts
- ASL Conversation Practice
- ASL Space and Classifiers
- Gestures to Sign
- ASL Inflection (signs and non-manual signals)
- Structure of ASL (linguistic study)

Curriculum Electives Taught in Other RIT and NTID Programs

- Deaf Women's Studies
- Civil Rights and Deaf People
- ASL Literature
- Deaf Art and Deaf Artists
- Deaf Heritage
- Sign Mime and Creative Movement

From Dream to Reality

- Deaf Community
- Families
- Professionals (Educators)
- Government
- ASL – English Interpreting Profession
born out of a desire and the basic human
right for Deaf people to work, contribute,
lead and live in the world with all peoples