

## CDI TRAINING FOCUS OF ILLINOIS RID MENTORING GRANT

By Donna Reiter Brandwein, Professional Development Chair (retired)

Illinois RID was selected as a recipient for the three year mentoring grant awarded by RID in 2004.

The focus of the Illinois mentoring program is to provide educational/mentoring experiences for deaf people committed to becoming RID CDIs. Our first step (before the grant was awarded) was to sponsor two informational seminars taught by Steve Walker, CDI from Gallaudet University. One was offered at Chicago Club for the Deaf, and one was held at the Jacksonville Center for Independent Living. Both were very well received and helped folks decide if becoming a CDI was truly their career goal.

Next, a three-day, sixteen-hour workshop was held in Chicago taught by Dan Langholtz and Sharon Neumann Solow

with modeling and assistance provided by Steve Walker. Over fifty people attended. The grant was then used to sponsor a follow-up four-week course last fall to prepare for the CDI written test taught by Diana Gorman, a professor at Columbia College's IPP.

IRID's CDI Committee Chair, Delynn Sanders, set up monthly study groups all over the state as well as a two-day advanced training taught by Eileen Forrestal in Gurnee in May this year.

The remainder of the funds during this year's grant cycle will be matched by potential CDIs to contract with Steven Walker, Sharon Neumann Solow, and Dan Langholtz to receive one-on-one long distance private mentoring/feedback via video tape, video relay conversations, and written critiques.

We look forward to refining and replicating this one on one partnership/mentorship for a larger pool of potential CDIs in 2006 and 2007. For information, please feel free to contact Delynn Saunders at [DeafASLTTY@aol.com](mailto:DeafASLTTY@aol.com) and/or Brooke Macnamara at [president@ilrid.org](mailto:president@ilrid.org). ■

(Below) Participants in the Illinois Mentoring Program

