

Preface



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In 2010, the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC) published *Toward Effective Practice: Competencies of the Deaf Interpreter*, a landmark study of Deaf interpreter practice. This study was based on national surveys and focus groups of Deaf interpreters and interpreter educators. At that time, we hoped that this work could lead us in the direction of a curriculum that would address the dearth of specialized training opportunities for Deaf interpreters.

We now offer the *NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Curriculum* as a starting point, the first step on an exciting and relevant new path. This curriculum represents an important beginning of a new conversation about how we can prepare Deaf interpreters to carry out their unique work, foster the advancement of Deaf interpreters, and contribute in important ways to their ongoing professional development.

No one has ever attempted this effort. There is a conspicuously small body of research in the field of Deaf interpreter practice. Even so, we tried to capture what experienced Deaf interpreters intuitively know and have done marvelously well in the most difficult situations and with the most challenging and diverse consumers. To accomplish this, we brought together teams of experienced interpreter practitioners and educators. We asked them to articulate what they know and have done, and then we moved beyond this to frame a curriculum to address the unique Deaf interpreter competencies already identified.

Many individuals worked hard to make this curriculum possible, and we owe them our deepest gratitude. We wish to acknowledge these individuals:

- The original twelve people who began this exploration at the *NCIEC 2006 Critical Issues Forum*: Dr. Patrick Boudreault, Janis Cole, Jan DeLap, Dr. Eileen Forestal, Carole Lazorisak, Terry Malcolm, Mark Morales, Priscilla Moyers, Cynthia Napier, Sharon Neumann Solow, Deborah Peterson, and Stacey Storme.
- Eight people who continued the work of developing the *NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Competencies* document: Jimmy Beldon, Dr. Patrick Boudreault, Dr. Steven Collins, Dr. Eileen Forestal, Carole Lazorisak, Priscilla Moyers, Cynthia Napier, and Deborah Peterson.



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We welcome the partnership of Deaf interpreter practitioners, researchers, and educators in further expanding and improving this groundbreaking curriculum, through the sharing of input, ideas, and recommendations.

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