

# Sign Language Interpreter Policy

## **The Goal of Reid State Technical College in Interpreting Services**

The goal of Reid State Technical College in the area of interpreting services is to facilitate the process of providing high quality interpreting services to deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing clients. Reid State Technical College will serve in a mediator capacity to ensure appropriate accommodations are provided to Deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) students as mandated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **The Interpreter's Role**

An interpreter is a professional communication facilitator between D/HH individuals and hearing individuals. The purpose of an interpreter is to provide a meaningful communication exchange equal to that of a hearing individual. The interpreter uses a specific sign language to communicate the spoken word to D/HH clients. Interpreters will use their voice to communicate sign language to hearing clients. Some D/HH individuals however, prefer to voice for themselves. The interpreter is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the environment is appropriate and conducive for interpreting.

The interpreter is not a tutor, instructor, note-taker or counselor and should not engage in these roles.

## **Requesting an Interpreter**

It is critical that D/HH students notify the ADA Coordinator of their communication needs and preferences as early as possible to ensure appropriate accommodations. Requests for interpreter services must be submitted 6 weeks prior to the beginning of the term. The ADA Coordinator will require a copy of the student's schedule and a completed Interpreter Request Form. Forms are available at the ADA Coordinator office.

Students should inform the ADA Coordinator when any changes are made in the class schedule (Adding or dropping a class, room change, day/time change). This will allow the ADA Coordinator to coordinate interpreters appropriately.

Students that experience problems with interpreting services should attempt to address their concerns with the Interpreter and/or professor. If no resolution can be reached, the student should contact the ADA Coordinator office as soon as possible.