

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

April 1–3, 2014



SDSD Outreach visit MSAD

On October 24, 2013, SDSD's Outreach department visited Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) in Faribault. The group met with director, Roxie Mitchell, and assistant director, Jody Olsen, to discuss the history of the school which recently celebrated their sesquicentennial. Team members toured the campus, observed deaf education teachers and students in classrooms, had opportunities to sign with children of all ages, even chatting with former SDSD students who attend MSAD.

Team members had an opportunity to pose questions, discuss concerns, and compare resources and methods used to ensure our deaf and hard of hearing students have full access to educational experiences. The SDSD Outreach team enjoyed meeting MSAD staff and added several contacts to their professional networks.

Guest Lecture for USD Student Teachers

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On November 13, 2013, Sara Hansen, Service Coordinator, provided a guest lecture to The University of South Dakota's Dr. Cindy Nelson's Sioux Falls student teachers cohort. The formal presentation included information about audiograms, hearing loss, ear infections, and tinnitus. The students gained greater understanding of hearing loss through simulations of moderate loss as well as simulations of hearing aids and cochlear implants. The group also learned about bone anchored hearing aids, FM systems, and classroom sound field technology. The session also included a tour of the Audiology Department provided by Sarah Zellmer, SDSD Audiologist.

Communication tips and practical strategies for working with deaf and hard of hearing students in classroom settings were provided. The future educators were also given access to web links and videos of classroom activities related to hearing health for students of all ages and grade levels. Elements of Deaf culture and American Sign Language were also discussed.

Christmas Party with CSD and SDAD

On December 8, 2013, Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) and South Dakota Association of the Deaf (SDAD) hosted a holiday meal for members of the Deaf Community. Over 100 people gathered at the SDAD Center in Sioux Falls to enjoy a turkey dinner. The entertainment

portion of the day starred SDSD clients signing Christmas songs in Santa hats. The songs included, "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer", "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", and "Jingle Bells." The event ended with a surprise visit from "Signing Santa!"



Cookie Exchange

Sioux Falls Outreach Consultants Julie Luke and Laura Scholten hosted a signing cookie exchange on Saturday, December 14, 2013. Attendees included hearing mothers with deaf children and mothers from the Deaf community. Deaf

mothers shared their personal experiences at home and schools. SDSD moms asked questions about situations they can prepare for with their own children. The morning visit ended with everyone exchanging Christmas cookies.



Lakota Nation Education Conference

On December 20, 2013, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, Outreach Consultants, presented “Maximizing Language in the Home and School” at the Lakota Nation Education Conference. The session focused on increasing language opportunities for deaf

and hard of hearing children and those who are at risk for language delays. Attendees were given real life examples, take away activities, ideas to support increased use of language, and methods to expand on the current routines and strategies.



Foreign Language Credit Option

Megan Arhart, student at Stanley County High School, is deaf and uses a cochlear implant. Her postsecondary plans include attending Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. where a large majority of the student population uses a language other than spoken English.

The foreign language courses offered at local high schools do not fit Megan’s needs or goals. While she attempted a Spanish course, it was difficult for Megan to be successful.

Sarah Lingle, Outreach Consultant, Mr. Timothy Hollar, her principal, and the SD Department of Education worked together assist Megan in registering for a course in American Sign Language which will be shown on her high school transcript as a foreign language credit. This course was offered through Michigan’s Virtual School and the World Languages program, a branch of Michigan Virtual University based out of Lansing, MI. Megan completed the fall semester and is enrolled in the second half of the course this spring.

Sign Class for Children’s Home Society

On January 6 and 7, Sioux Falls Outreach Consultants Kami VanSickle and Julie Luke taught a basic sign language class to foster parents at Children’s Home Society. During the presentation, Julie and Kami shared information about SDSD Outreach and audio-

logical services. The benefits of sign language were discussed. Foster families shared their personal experiences with sign language and learned 25 new vocabulary words they can use with their children.

Rush Hockey Night

On Tuesday, February 11, SDSD Outreach Consultants, Kerry Ruth and Nina Ringstmeyer hosted the second annual Rush Hockey family night. Ten clients and their parents attended the game in a luxury suite! The Rush Foundation provided game tickets and the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center provided the suite. Attendees enjoyed pizza, popcorn, and soda donated by the SDSD Foundation.

The event was a great opportunity for students to meet and interact with deaf and hard of hearing peers. Many attendees live in rural areas and rarely meet other individuals with hearing loss. Parents enjoyed sharing stories and experiences with one another. Although the Rush did not win, everyone enjoyed cheering them on!



In-service Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu

SDSD Outreach Consultant In-Services

Eileen Anderson.....	18
Julie Delfs.....	8
Carol Johnson	12
Sarah Lingle.....	14
Julie Luke	8
Naomi Mangan	4
Nina Ringstmeyer	14
Kerry Ruth	19
Jodi Schnider	6
Laura Scholten.....	6
Kami Van Sickle.....	12
Total.....	121

In-services and guest lectures are provided by members of the SDSD Outreach team as an extension of support for children and students with hearing loss. These in-services may relate to hearing loss and its educational impact, technical assistance and orientation with hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM systems, sound field systems, and/or interpreters, or educational strategies and materials that may benefit SDSD clients.

Audiology Department News

The following report details audiological services provided to South Dakota children from July, 2013 through February, 2014 on SDSD's campus or via the mobile lab .

Total Screened:	8639
Total Evaluated:	704
*SNHL Found:	156
*CHL Found:	597
Mobile Sites:	118

SNHL— sensorineural hearing loss
CHL— conductive hearing loss



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm