

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

August 2–4, 2016



A Partnership with Families

Submitted by Sarah Lingle

In our new series, we ask families about SDSD Outreach services, Jennifer and Jamie Rancour, parents of an SDSD client, share their family's experience.



How did you learn about SDSD Outreach?

I believe I was referred by Julia Jones at Audiology Associates or the Pierre School District. It's been such a long time that we've been connected, I can't remember how it started. Just seems like they've always been there!

How has SDSD Outreach's involvement benefited your child?

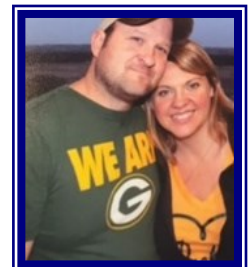
We have benefited greatly from the support of SDSD Outreach, mainly within the school system and helping our kids' teachers understand how to best work with them. Sarah (and Tami, before Sarah) came with me to our kids' meetings at the school and did brief and educational in-services for the teachers on how hearing loss impacts student learning. It was always positive, helpful, and informational. Sarah also checks in with my boys from time to time at school to see how they are doing, and offers services as they become available. When my boys were using FM systems, the outreach staff were always assisting the boys and their teachers with technical difficulties concerning the FM system, providing ongoing support in that way also.

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What would you say to other families who are considering SDSD services?

The outreach people are so open and friendly; they treat parents as well as kids as equal partners and friends, rather than as patients they are providing care for on a strictly professional level. We enjoy our interaction with the outreach personnel. They have always provided just the right amount of support without being pushy or overbearing, but always letting us know they are there when and if needed. We are most appreciative!



West River Expansion

Submitted by **Laura Scholten & Carly Hemmingson**



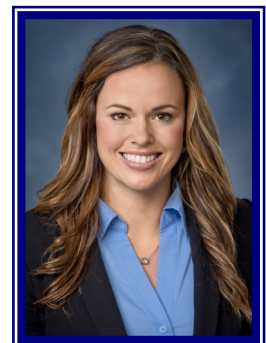
South Dakota School for the Deaf is proud to announce its addition of an audiology clinic on the western side of the state. The new clinic, located at 2138 Jackson Blvd in Rapid City, will provide free diagnostic audiological evaluations, hearing screenings, and hearing aid/FM services for children who reside in South Dakota. Dr. Carly Hemmingson will be providing the audiological services with the clinic scheduled to open in August. We welcome Dr. Hemmingson to the team.

My name is Carly Hemmingson and I am very excited to join the SDSD team! Having recently graduated from the USD Doctor of Audiology program, and being raised in Watertown, South Dakota, I look forward to beginning my career by serving the children of western South Dakota.

My passion for audiology stems from a very personal connection. My cousin, Gillian, was late-identified with sensorineural hearing loss and now utilizes bilateral cochlear implants as well as other elements of “total communication.” Gillian’s continued success with communication and academics in a mainstream classroom is largely attributed to the committed interdisciplinary team of professionals and family members who have surrounded Gillian throughout her life and worked diligently to close the gap that existed from late identification. Relating Gillian’s struggles to those faced by the children in our state with hearing healthcare needs has provided me with a deeply-rooted dedication to pediatric audiology and a strong commitment to early identification and intervention. When pursuing a career in audiology, it was my goal to be a part of a well-oiled team that has a measurable impact on the children and families it serves.

I first became familiar with SDSD in 2014 when I had the pleasure of completing a clinical rotation with the SDSD team. I became acquainted with the SDSD network and the collaborative services provided by the team. During that time, I quickly recognized that my personal vision of providing high-quality, accessible audiologic care for the pediatric population of our state, and particularly serving those in underserved areas, aligned with the goals of SDSD.

My vision for the Western Region Audiology Outreach Clinic is to provide comprehensive, easily accessible, pediatric audiologic services, with a focus on informed and individualized family decision making while developing sustainable, successful interventions. One aspect I am particularly excited about is establishing our Western Region Audiology Outreach Clinic as a newborn hearing screening follow-up site, as early identification and intervention is integral to positive outcomes. I am thankful for the opportunity to begin my Audiology career with the SDSD team and look forward to serving the children and families of our state.



Shared Reading Project

Submitted by Paula Souhrada



Hello! I'm thrilled to introduce myself, Paula Souhrada, the Shared Reading Project Coordinator! This program was developed to provide tutoring and support to parents and caregivers in effectively sharing books with their young deaf/hard of hearing child/ren. When books are effectively shared, there is a greater likelihood of an improvement in reading ability and contributes to higher reading ability in school. This also promotes language enrichment along with communication. Working with SDSD, my role within this program is informing the parents of the program, sharing the principles, matching the family up with the appropriate tutor, and monitoring progress.

In this program, tutors visit families, upon agreement on frequency, in their home to demonstrate how to sign the stories and to provide instant feedback to family members. After a tutor leaves, the family can use DVDs provided which accompany the book; the DVDs have deaf readers signing the story to reinforce the new signs. Because children love seeing these books read over and over again, the parents have repeated opportunities to practice and develop skills.

In South Dakota, we are proud to say we have 10 tutors on hand ready to serve families! We currently have 8 families receiving services and they are all loving it! We have a plethora of books all ready to be shared! The bonding time we see between the child/ren and parents is priceless! Thanks to SDSD for this making this program a reality!

Huron Event

Submitted by Julie Delfs

On May 26, Julie Delfs, SDSD Outreach Consultant, hosted an end of the year family event. Six families attended and enjoyed eating snow cones, pizza, and playing in a bouncy house. A big thank you goes out to the SDSD Foundation for providing the pizza! The event was a huge success and everyone had a great time.



SDSD Class Reunion

Submitted by Laura Scholten



On June 10-11, former SDSD students gathered at the SDSD main campus for an All Class Reunion. The event celebrated 135 years of SDSD providing services to South Dakota children who are deaf/hard of hearing. Over the two days, events included SDSD trivia, seeing items from the SDAD museum, an SDSD building tour, class pictures, a deaf culture game show, and a dinner with entertainment.

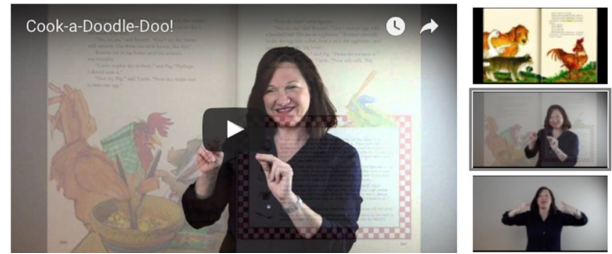
On June 11, SDSD and Simpson Building tours were offered. The tours were an opportunity to celebrate the past and learn about the current developments on the SDSD campus. In addition to former students, community and all past and current SDSD employees were welcome.



Using Technology to Teach Sign Language

Submitted by Tanya Miller

This was the year of expansion for ASL programs! During 2014-2015, ASL classes were available only for school district staff. During the 2015-2016 year, ASL classes were provided to not only staff, but three deaf children attending various school districts including Wolf Creek (Pine Ridge), Douglas County (Box Elder) and Andes Central. Sessions typically ran for 45 minutes for 6 to 8 weeks. Videos of signed vocabulary were available on YouTube for participants to review and practice in between ASL classes. A class survey found that out of all the respondents, two-thirds found themselves signing more in general after completion of the ASL class.



In March, a new ASL session, consisting of 28 hours of instruction, was implemented for three deaf students and their instructor, Beau Patton. Chantal Bergero, a Deaf community member, provided individualized instruction to meet each student's unique needs. The students' teacher(s) observed how Chantal interacted with the students and also participated in various fun activities. According to the students' instructor, Chantal was the first deaf person these three students interacted with or had the ability to use their sign language with. At the end of the class, the instructor sang high praises about the impact on the students' communication skills.

Another expansion of the ASL program was Signed Storytelling. After learning about a deaf student in third grade who was really struggling with his reading comprehension skills, signed stories from the student's textbook were provided. The student watched the signed stories which improved his reading comprehension skills. His grades, previously failing, were pulled up to A's and B's. What a success! Videos can be found on SDSD's YouTube page.

SDSD Staff Spotlight : Sarah Lingle



What got you interested in working with children who are deaf/hard of hearing?

As a speech-language pathologist, communication and language has always been at the forefront of my interests in my career. I am passionate about early childhood development and believe that an early language base is so critical for all children to build upon as they grow. When I am able to share that passion with parents who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing, it is very rewarding.

What do you like most about SDSD?

The team of professionals I work with are also very passionate about some aspect of the field whether it be working with teens, training teachers, sharing the advancements of technology or whatever the area is, it makes the "job" part of SDSD so fun and energizing because there is always something new to learn.

If you could share only one piece of advice about deaf/hard of hearing children, what would it be?

I would share that children who are deaf/hard of hearing are typically very eager to know and understand what you are trying to say. They are also working extremely hard to fill in the gaps so never give up on them.

Meet our New Staff

Submitted by Lisa Behrends

Hello, my name is Lisa Behrends, SDSD Senior Secretary. My first experience with SDSD was when my brother worked at SDSD as a maintenance worker. For a senior community project in high school, we were required to complete 40 hours of community service. While my peers were going to nursing homes, I contacted SDSD to volunteer my time. SDSD even called my principal to make sure this was true! The administration couldn't understand why a senior in high school would want to work with deaf children. Exposure during those times led me to get a job as a houseparent in Krohn Hall from 1990-1992. I left to pursue other dreams in Arvada, Colorado but moved back to Sioux Falls in 2006.

I have 2 children; my son goes to Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD and my daughter goes to University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. I came back to SDSD in December of 2015. I enjoy working with families and the teachers throughout the state of South Dakota who support our students who are deaf/hard of hearing and their families.



Nancy McKenzie (right);
Lisa Behrends (left)

Audiology Department News

Submitted by Greg King

The following report details the continual growth of our audiological services provided to South Dakota children on SDSD's campus and via the mobile lab.



FY 16 (Inclusive dates July 1st 2015 through June 30th, 2016)

Mobile Lab and Campus Clinic Audiological Screenings: 13,382
Mobile Lab and Campus Clinic Audiological Evaluations: 2,007
Sites Visited by Mobile Lab and Audiology Outreach Services: 150

FY 15 (Inclusive dates July 1st 2014 through June 30th 2015)

Mobile Lab and Campus Clinic Audiological Screenings: 12,305
Mobile Lab and Campus Clinic Audiological Evaluations: 1,845
Sites Visited by Mobile Lab and Audiology Outreach Services: 129

FY 14 (Inclusive dates July 1st 2013 through June 30th, 2014)

Mobile Lab and Campus Clinic Audiological Screenings: 10,619
Mobile Lab and Campus Clinic Audiological Evaluations: 1,592
Sites Visited by Mobile Lab and Audiology Outreach Services: 146

*** The above information reflects the last 3 of 6 years of data.

