

# South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

August 10-12, 2015



## A World of Opportunities

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On June 11-12, South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) hosted the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education (MWCDE) on the Sioux Falls campus. A collaboration amongst three agencies made "A World of Opportunities" possible: SDSD, North Dakota School for the Deaf, and Midwest Gallaudet University Regional Center. SDSD welcomed 155 participants from 10 different states. Eight presenters covered topics such as early intervention and language acquisition, reading instruction, the connection between reading and fingerspelling, strategies to support academic language development, how to work with oppositional students and resolve conflicts, the significance of brain science and its application in the classroom, the importance of social communication and self-advocacy skills, hearing assistive technology, and educating children with cochlear implants. Participants applauded the content of the conference and the opportunity to collaborate with others working with deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

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MWCDE  
Presenters

## A Standout Senior

Submitted by Carol Johnson

SDSD consultants have the honor to make a positive influence in the lives of a number of students and families throughout the state of South Dakota. There is no greater honor in our role than to see our students grow and flourish. We would like to recognize one of SDSD's own, Hannah Rose Higdon, a 2015 graduate of Dupree High School.

Here are some Hannah's highlights:

- Valedictorian of her graduating class
- Member of the National Honor's Society
- Volunteer Assistant Coach for Boys' Basketball Team
- Volunteer Coach for the Elementary Girls' Cheerleading Team
- Volleyball Player
- Drama Play Writer and Director
- 2015 South Dakota Snow Queen
- Received the following Scholarships:
  - \$3000 Scholarship from the South Dakota Snow Queen Competition
  - \$2000 Scholarship from the Minnehaha Sertoma Foundation

Hannah has decided to continue her education by going to college. She will attend Northern State University of Aberdeen, SD this July. She plans on pursuing a business degree with a minor in Agricultural Services. Carol Johnson was honored to be her consultant and support in her educational journey. Hannah says she would like to keep in touch with the SDSD family. We wish Hannah the best in all her future endeavors!

## 2015 Early Childhood Conference

Submitted by Carol Johnson



The Early Childhood Conference (ECE) is a fun way for educators and families to come together to network and expand their knowledge through early childhood professional development workshops. This year, ECE added SDSD consultants Carol Johnson and Julie Luke to their list of great presenters. In years past, participants had been requesting information on sign language and the consultants of SDSD were listening. The workshop "Sign Language: How Can We Use it in Our Early Childhood Classrooms?" spanned two days and had over 50 attendees during each session. Attendees learned the benefits of sign language, how to implement it in their classrooms, learned some signs and ASL songs, and sign language games to make learning fun. Attendees provided nothing but positive feedback! This was just another great example of the wonderful things SDSD is doing to contribute to the community and to get the word out about our fabulous program. Way to go team!

## Cochlear Implant Workshop

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On April 25, SDSD team members headed to Minnesota to attend the Mayo Clinic Pediatric Cochlear Implant Conference. “Building Blocks for Listening & Language Development” targeted professionals working with children ages 0-3 years who are deaf and use cochlear implants for the purpose of developing spoken language. Topics included the role of auditory input in developing spoken language, assessment practices, and how to support families as the primary facilitators of language. The team gained valuable knowledge to utilize in their work with young children with cochlear implants!



## A Commitment To Learning

Submitted by Laura Scholten

Eileen Anderson, SDSD Outreach Consultant in the Aberdeen area, earned her master's degree this spring. Eileen has been supporting deaf and hard-of-hearing children within the SDSD program for over 13 years. Way to go Eileen!



## Saying Good-bye

Submitted by Laura Scholten

This spring, we said farewell to one of our Outreach Consultants, Naomi Mangan. We wish Naomi the best both professionally and personally as she moves into her new position at the Indiana School for the Deaf. We will miss her many contributions to our team. Best wishes Naomi!



## Mitchell Technical Institute

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On April 21, SDSD Outreach Consultant, Laura Scholten, presented at Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) to aspiring speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs). As the demand for speech-language pathologists continues to increase, SLPAs are becoming more common in the public school setting. Given that a very high percentage of deaf and hard-of-hearing students are mainstreamed, SLPAs have a high probability of working with a mainstreamed student with a varied hearing status. To expose the MTI students to the unique needs of such students, the presentation covered hearing technology, the impact of hearing status on speech and language development, and resources to utilize when they encounter a deaf or hard-of-hearing student on their caseload.

## Hands in Motion

Submitted by Laura Scholten



Granted through the Department of Education, SDSD hosted the 7th Annual Hands in Motion Summer Enrichment Program for students ages 2 through fifth grade. This year, 27 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from across the state attended the program. Throughout the month of July, a mixture of classroom and experiential learning took place with “Fairy Tales” as the overall theme. The students benefited from the expertise of seven deaf educators who are all fluent American Sign Language (ASL) users. Many students didn’t know sign language at the onset of the program but left with a great foundation. Former student involvement is significant with one college-aged student creating the program’s logo and another volunteering as an aide. The impact of the program doesn’t stop at the student themselves! Augustana College interpreting majors were also involved which allowed them an excellent opportunity to practice their skills. It was a great experience for all involved!

## SDSD Annual Picnic

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On May 19, SDSD hosted its Third Annual SDSD Picnic. This year, SDSD welcomed 130 people who were former SDSD students, members of the deaf community, and/or current SDSD clients and their families. Events like the SDSD Picnic are very important for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. As many deaf and hard-of-hearing students are the only student with a varying hearing level in their public schools, socialization with other deaf students is crucial in their development of self-esteem and identity. SDSD recognizes this need and is dedicated to providing such opportunities for the children we serve. Due to its success, SDSD is already looking forward to next year’s picnic.



## In-service Update



[www.sdsd.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdsd.sdbor.edu)

Consultant In-services 2014–2015

134 In-services

1,790  
South Dakotans  
Educated

In-services and guest lectures are provided by members of the SDSD Outreach team as an extension of support for children with varied hearing status. These in-services relate to varied hearing status 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

Submitted by Greg King

The following report details audiological services provided to South Dakota children from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 on SDSD's campus and via the mobile lab.

Total Screened	12,005
Total Evaluated	1,800
*SNHL Found	240
*CHL Found	480
Mobile Sites	128

SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss  
CHL—conductive hearing loss



[www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm](http://www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm)