

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

March 30 – April 1, 2016



Professional Development Days

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On November 17-18, Outreach Consultants from the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) and South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) held joint Professional Development Days in Pierre, SD. The consultants had a great opportunity to meet with staff from Parent Connection, South Dakota Advocacy, and the Department of Education. All agencies gained a better understanding of each organization's role as it relates to children with sensory impairments. In breakout sessions, the SDSD staff also shared with one another about their most commonly used resources for deaf/hard of hearing students. A computer training focused on efficiency tips for paperwork and managing work calendars and schedules. To prepare the consultants for life after work, an informational session thoroughly described SD Retirement and how to prepare for it. The highlight of the entire two days was an unexpected visit from South Dakota's governor, Dennis Daugaard. Being the son of two deaf adults, it was wonderful to hear about his childhood experiences. The Outreach Consultants really appreciated Governor Daugaard showing his support for the work we do!

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A Partnership with Families

SDSD Outreach works closely with family members of children with hearing loss. In our new series, we will be asking our families about our services. Meghan Neuberger is our first parent to share about her experiences with SDSD. Here is what she says, “We first heard of SDSD Outreach through our audiologist, Dr. Teresa Fendrich. SDSD is a tremendous resource for us. Our outreach consultant gave us the confidence and support to know that our child would be successful. She is our mentor and biggest cheerleader. We have met wonderful families through SDSD. We couldn't have made it though this journey without them.”



SDSD Staff Spotlight : Kerry Ruth

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

After spending the first decade of my teaching career working with kids identified as emotionally disturbed, I had the opportunity to pursue a Master's Degree in Deaf Education through a federal grant. This offer came at a time when I was looking to further my education and expand my teaching areas. My experience at the University of Minnesota opened a whole new educational world for me.

What do you like most about SDSD?

I love working for SDSD! I feel valued, supported, and respected as a professional. I work with such knowledgeable individuals that it helps me grow professionally. The variety in my job makes every day exciting. Working with babies, school age children, and teenagers in the schools and home is such a delight.



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

Access, access, access! It is my job to make certain that my deaf/hard of hearing clients have access to language at school, home, and in all environments.

Partnering with Sioux Falls Public Schools

Submitted by **Laura Scholten**

Sioux Falls Public Schools has a substantial deaf/hard of hearing population. Many of these deaf/hard of hearing students begin to receive services through the district's Birth to Three Program. This fall, the South Dakota School for the Deaf has provided a series of trainings for Sioux Falls Public Schools' early intervention providers to maximize their knowledge and service delivery.

Connecting Families

Submitted by **Jodi Schnider**

On November 6, eight families from Parkston, Mitchell, Salem, Mt. Vernon, White Lake, and Wessington Springs gathered for a night of swimming and pizza fun! Parents and families had the chance to meet and discuss important topics concerning their children and hearing loss. The gathering was the first of its kind so the children had a great time swimming, playing mini golf, and even a makeshift baseball field was made! This was an event that resonated with everyone involved and the group is planning to get together again this winter!



Family Night in Huron

Submitted by **Julie Delfs**

On November 13, Julie Delfs hosted a family night at Washington School in Huron. Seven families attended the event. The children enjoyed playing a variety of games and ending the night with pizza and pop.



Tween/Teen Group

Submitted by **Sherry Jackson**

On November 21, SDSD hosted the Teens/Tweens in Action group at Sky Zone. There were two Augustana University students, one parent, and 5 deaf students along with 3 hearing teen participants. The Augustana students had the teens participate in a solo cup team building activity and discussed the positive characteristics of teamwork and Sky Zone safety. Meanwhile, the teens participated in races to model positive sportsmanship and safety practices. They also played dodgeball and basketball as well as free jumping and jumping into the pit.

University of South Dakota

Submitted by **Laura Scholten**

On November 6, Dr. Kyle Brouwer invited SDSD Outreach Consultant, Laura Scholten, to speak to a group of undergraduate/graduate students at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Brouwer teaches in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. This fall, he taught Disorders in Phonology and Articulation. Due to the potential impact of hearing loss on speech development, Laura shared some information about some typical deaf/hard of hearing speech production challenges and how to address them during therapy. The class left the presentation with a better understanding of best practice methods.

Dakota State University

Submitted by Alissa Hutchinson

On November 16, Julie Delfs and Alissa Hutchinson presented to two classes at Dakota State University (DSU). The first class consisted of seventeen upper level special education students and the second class had nineteen students in an introductory special education course. In each class, the effects of hearing loss on students in the classroom was discussed. The consultants also shared information about the types of hearing loss, technology related to hearing loss, and demonstrated student classroom technology. The consultants also shared simulations which provided the DSU students a better perspective on what it is like to have a hearing loss in the classroom. Since the professor was so happy and impressed with the presentations, she invited SDSO back for next semester.

Pottery 2 Paint

Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth

SDSO Outreach Consultants, Kerry Ruth and Nina Ringstmeyer, hosted a girls' ornament painting event at Pottery 2 Paint in Rapid City on Friday, November 6, 2015. Twelve girls participated in the activity. Thank you to the SDSO Foundation for sponsoring this event.



Boys' Bowling Night

By Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth

SDSO Outreach Consultants, Kerry Ruth and Nina Ringstmeyer, hosted a boys bowling event on Saturday, November 7, 2015. The afternoon of bowling was held in Rapid City at Meadowood Lanes. Twelve boys and their parents enjoyed the event. A huge thank you to Meadowood Lanes for waiving the shoe fee and the SDSO Foundation for providing pizza, drinks, and bowling.



Southeast Technical College

By Jodi Schnider

On November 9, Laura Scholten and Jodi Schnider presented the second in their series on hearing loss at Southeast Technical College. The students in the early childhood program learned about technology and hearing loss. The STI students were able to manipulate different hearing devices and learn what type of hearing loss requires each type of device. The students were even taught a little sign language to use with their early childhood students.

In-service Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu

Consultant In-services 2015–2016

93 In-services

1,379
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, 2015 through February 26th 2016 on SDSD's campus and via the mobile lab .

Total Screened	11,310
Total Evaluated	1,696
*SNHL Found	226
*CHL Found	452
Mobile Sites	122

SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss
CHL— conductive hearing loss



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm