

# South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

December 1–3, 2015



## Family Day

Submitted by Jodi Schnider

SDSD held its annual Family Day, October 17, 2015. Five families, from the eastern side of the state, joined together for a morning of donuts, games, art, bouncy house, and swimming. In all, there were 20 children who enjoyed making an art project, shooting hoops, playing with playdough, and getting a treat bag. Along with that, they took the memories of making new friends who were also deaf/hard of hearing. The adults enjoyed coffee and hot cider, as well as some time to support each other in their journeys of navigating the mainstream in their home school districts.



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## Teen/Tween Group

Submitted by Alissa Hutchinson

On September 26, 2015 five teens, one college volunteer, two SDSA employees and three deaf community members enjoyed a fun day at the Heartland Corn Maze in Harrisburg. The teens involved in our Deaf Teens in Action group were taught a brief lesson about maps, direction following, and team work prior to entering the corn maze. The teens were split into groups to see who could find the most hidden clues in the corn maze first by following their map. While in the maze, the young men and women noticed quickly that the maze was very complex. They had to communicate with one another to discuss their best plan and approach for finding the items on the map. The teens remarked that it was much harder than they anticipated. They noted team work and helping one another seemed to improve their ability to follow the map to find the hidden clues.



On Thursday October 22, 2015 eight teens and eight adults gathered at Applebee's restaurant to share a meal and learn about ordering food within a budget and proper dining etiquette. The teens were given a specific amount of money for their dining experience. Given their budget, attendees learned about considering the cost of their food, beverage, tax, and a tip. Some students had never ordered their own food at a restaurant before. Not only was it a good experience to learn about a dining budget but it also allowed them to practice ordering their food. Mock situations were created with the waitress where the teens had to problem-solve in scenarios that could happen while dining out. Overall, the young men and women loved the socializing that took place with their peers. It was also a great lesson on dining within a budget and appropriate restaurant etiquette.

## Yankton Federal Prison

Submitted by Kami VanSickle

SDSD Outreach Consultants, Julie Luke and Kami Van Sickle, presented at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. They were asked to present as part of the facility's attempt to educate staff about various disabilities. More than 50 staff gathered to receive a brief overview on the numerous types of technology available to Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, learn some basic, functional sign language, and be exposed to a Deaf Culture. This is the second year Julie and Kami have presented at the Federal Prison.

## Augustana University

Submitted by Jodi Schnider

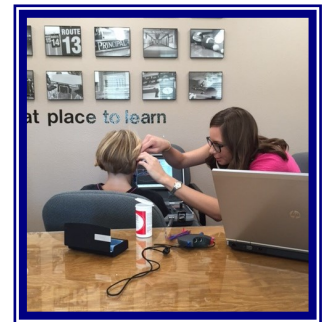
Augustana University invited Julie Luke and Jodi Schnider to speak to Interpreting Program students about the new technology available to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The two shared information on cochlear implants, hearing aids, bone anchored hearing aids, personal FM systems, and the use of sound field systems in the classroom. The students were able to get hands on experience with the equipment. As educational interpreters, it is important to understand the technology their clients may be using. Interpreters can support clients by checking for comprehension and by encouraging clients to advocate for themselves.



## USD Doctoral Intern Travels with Outreach

Submitted by Julie Delfs

Dr. Sarah Zellmer and University of South Dakota Audiology Doctoral Intern Samantha Boushek accompanied Outreach Consultant Julie Delfs to the Huron school district to check students hearing aids and FM systems to make sure they were working properly for the school year.



## CI Mappings

Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth



South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultants, Kerry Ruth and Nina Ringstmeyer, hosted the seventh Cochlear Implant Outreach Clinic in Rapid City on October 14 and 15. Through a collaborative effort with Rapid City Area Schools and the University of South Dakota (USD) Scottish Rite Speech and Hearing Clinic, SDSD was once again able to offer an opportunity for families living west-river to have their child's cochlear implant services (including programming/mapping and evaluation of auditory development) provided closer to home.

The USD team utilized the Rapid City School District's sound booth in the Jefferson Building for cochlear implant mapping and audiology evaluations. Dr. Jessica J. Messersmith saw 14 clients and provided audiology services, cochlear implant consultations and mapping, and BAHAs programming and consultations as well as two hearing evaluations. Dr. Elizabeth Hanson and a USD student saw several of these students as well, focusing on augmentative communication. Three students from the University of South Dakota were also on hand to assist with the evaluations as a part of their doctoral audiology program.

This is a great opportunity for families, who would otherwise have to travel a minimum of 12 hours for these services. The next Cochlear Implant Outreach Clinic is scheduled for spring of 2016.



## **SLP Workshop**

**Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth**

On October 9, the South Dakota School for the Deaf presented a speech and language workshop for professionals working with students who are deaf/hard or hearing or low language producers. Laura Scholten and Kim Wadsworth traveled from Sioux Falls to present the ABC's of Hearing at the Black Hills State University Center in Rapid City. Fifty educators attended the informative workshop. Access, Brain Development, Collaboration, Daily Listening Checks, and Environment were just some of the topics presented. Post-workshop evaluations indicated that the participants found the information useful and informative. Participants traveled from Newell, Belle Fourche, Sturgis, Piedmont, Deadwood, St. Francis, Oglala Lakota County, Box Elder, and Rapid City.

## **West River Evaluations**

**Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth**

For the second consecutive year, South Dakota School for the Deaf offered multidisciplinary evaluations for clients on the western side of the state. A team of evaluators, fluent in ASL, traveled to Rapid City to provide this much needed service to schools and families. Three clients were evaluated at the Family Medicine Residency Clinic in Rapid City. The Family Medicine Residency Clinic is a Regional Health facility that is a teaching clinic for medical students. They partnered with SDSD to provide a location for this evaluation, free of charge. SDSD clients were assessed in the areas of ability, achievement, speech-language-listening, social/emotional, and ASL skills. Completed evaluation reports are provided to the school districts and families as part of their Multidisciplinary Assessment process required by the State Department of Education. Without this opportunity, families would have to travel six hours one-way to participate in this evaluation process. The schools that participated lack the resources necessary to complete an evaluation for students who use ASL. The families, schools, and students were grateful for this opportunity.

## **Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss Conference**

**By Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth**

Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultants, attended the 36th Annual Conference on Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss in Marlborough, MA on October 22 and 23, 2015. This year's theme was "The Sounds of Success: Believe It and Achieve It!". The keynote speakers presented on the Universal Design for Learning, Supporting Psychological Development, and personal experiences growing up Deaf/Hard of Hearing. The two day conference offered a variety of breakout sessions focused on mainstreaming students in an oral setting. Nina and Kerry brought back a wide range of strategies and an abundance of information to assist clients who are served in their home school districts in the mainstream setting. This information will also be shared with all of the SDSD Outreach Consultants during an upcoming staff meeting.

## In-service Update



[www.sdsd.sdbor.edu](http://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 October 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 on SDSD's campus and via the mobile lab .

Total Screened	4,586
Total Evaluated	688
*SNHL Found	91
*CHL Found	183
Mobile Sites	49

SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss  
CHL— conductive hearing loss



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