

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

October 6-8, 2015



New Mobile Lab

Submitted by Greg King

The South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) Audiology Outreach Program has a new mobile hearing lab. This is in addition to the existing mobile hearing lab that has been working with children on a statewide basis since January of 2010. The Audiology Outreach Program is a part of the SDSD's mission of expanded audiological services and outreach to South Dakota children with varied hearing status. The mobile audiology lab's priority is to support Child Find efforts by assisting in discovering deaf or hard of hearing individuals.

The mobile labs are staffed by a licensed audiologist and two audiology technicians. Services include diagnostic hearing evaluations, school hearing screenings, and hearing aid and FM services (e.g. listening and visual inspection of hearing aids, new earmolds, tubing changes). The screening and evaluation of children birth through 21 (or graduation, whichever comes first) is at no cost. During the 2014-2015 School year, the Audiology Outreach Program provided services to 12,000 students at 129 different sites statewide.

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New Mobile Lab

Advocate of the Year Award

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On July 13, the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Americans With Disabilities Act was celebrated in Sioux Falls. Julie Luke, South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultant, was awarded Advocate of the Year!

Julie has a positive, passionate enthusiasm about working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. She is instrumental in identifying and implementing modifications and accommodations in the regular classroom, as well as the home setting, and encouraging growth and progress. She promotes quality educational programs and support services. Her valuable insight and progressive thinking is an asset to individuals, families, educators, co-workers, and boards.

Julie devotes herself to enriching the lives of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Her accomplishments include:

- She created a summer program for children who use sign language as their primary language. It is an opportunity for children to engage with other children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This allows children to flourish with other children who are living with similar experiences. This program continues to grow and thrive each year, quickly becoming funded with grants and sponsorships. She has worked with the program for 9 years.
- Julie has been a presenter on topics related to Deaf Education at conferences throughout the state, including the SD Early Childhood Conference.
- She has served on advisory boards and committees including the Deaf Education Advisory Board at Augustana University.

Julie has a natural ability to continually integrate her knowledge, experiences, and education to enrich the lives of others. She brings this with her wherever she goes. This isn't a job, this is Julie.



Transition Workshop

Submitted by Jodi Schnider

In June, Jodi Schnider had the opportunity to attend a conference called "Opening Doors, Unlocking Potential" in Charlottesville, Virginia. The conference focus was on dual language and transition challenges. During the conference, Jodi had the opportunity to make many professional connections and was able to compare our state's programs with those of Virginia. From the conference, SDSA has been able to implement a new assessment tool to use for external evaluations. The TAGG (Transition Assessment and Goal Generator) is an assessment tool which can be used with students who are deaf or hard of hearing and their Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams to meet IDEA's requirement, to use transition assessments to develop annual transition goals.

Therapime Workshop

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On July 24, members of the Therapime staff, a speech-language therapy company, attended a workshop at SDSD to learn about how to work with deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers. The topics included stages of listening, listening skill development, red flags for progress, parents as language facilitators, setting up a therapy session, and tools and resources for therapy. As speech-language pathologists play a critical role in early intervention, SDSD is dedicated to supporting them by increasing their knowledge and providing resources to maximize their intervention. The workshop was well received with participants requesting more workshops at SDSD!



Globe University

Submitted by Laura Scholten

On July 29, Laura Scholten, SDSD Outreach Consultant, was invited to speak to a group of students at Globe University. Students were informed about the services SDSD offers to the children of South Dakota. They also learned about the different communication choices available for deaf and hard of hearing children, how to facilitate conversations, and current technology. At the conclusion of the training, the students reported they had a better understanding of the unique needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.



Ongoing Partnership

Submitted by Laura Scholten

In an ongoing partnership with Sioux Falls Public Schools (SFPS), Laura Scholten, SDSD Outreach Consultant, shared information about working with deaf and hard of hearing students on September 1, 2015.

Laura first met with SFPS early intervention staff. The impact of hearing loss, the necessity of language access from birth, communication strategies, and intervention resources were discussed. A subsequent session is scheduled at the end of September.

After meeting with the early intervention staff, Laura met with the district's speech-language pathologists. The presentation focused on tools for assessing social skills and social thinking as well as resources for addressing these skills during speech therapy sessions.



Celebrate Families

Submitted Kim Wadsworth



On Saturday, August 8, Prairie View Prevention Center hosted a Back to School Fair at the Washington Pavilion. Kim Wadsworth shared information about SDSD and handed out flyers about the importance of families making sure their children have had their hearing tested before they go back into the classrooms. A variety of local agencies were in attendance sharing important information for families.



Meet Alissa Hutchinson

Submitted by Alissa Hutchinson

Alissa Hutchinson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Deaf Education and Elementary Education from Augustan College in 2009. After college, Alissa began her teaching career working with Deaf plus children in rural South Dakota. For the past two years, she was a teacher in the Harrisburg School District's Deaf Education classroom, teaching both elementary and high school students enrolled in their program. In July, Alissa joined the South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach team. With her background in Deaf Education and six years of teaching experience, she is looking forward to collaborating with families and schools to provide quality support services for the deaf and hard of hearing children in South Dakota.



Meet Sherry Jackson

Submitted by Sherry Jackson

Sherry Jackson graduated from Dakota State University in May of 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Upon graduation, she taught at Louisiana School for the Deaf for three years. She continued her education and obtained a Master's Degree in Deaf Education and American Sign Language (ASL) Studies at Lamar University in Texas. For the past two years, she has worked in the rural areas of South Dakota as a one-on-one deaf educator. This July, she joined the South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach team and is looking forward to partnering with the schools, community, and families.



In-service Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu

Consultant In-services 2015–2016

66 In-services

860
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 September 11th 2015 on SDSD's campus and via the mobile lab .

Total Screened	1,473
Total Evaluated	164
*SNHL Found	30
*CHL Found	59
Mobile Sites	22

SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss
CHL— conductive hearing loss



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm