

The Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD), in collaboration with the **Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)** and the TASN Coordination project, facilitates access to training to develop **Teachers of the Deaf** by offsetting tuition and books for a master's level teacher preparation program. Additionally, KSD provides mentoring, on-site student teaching, and immersion experiences.



TEACHERS OF THE DEAF TRAINING

A high need for expertise in deaf or hard of hearing instructional practices has been identified, especially in rural and western Kansas. Through the Teachers of the Deaf project, the Kansas School for the Deaf Outreach department strives to ensure that all students throughout Kansas who are deaf or hard of hearing receive the specialized educational services needed to be successful. The Deaf Education coursework is available to licensed teachers to expand their repertoire of instructional techniques for this population

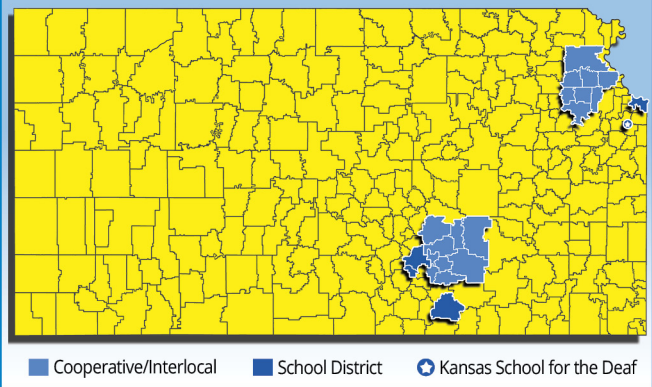
"The information I learned will be applied directly to my students when I begin my new teaching job in the next couple of days."

"It was great being able to network with the people of KSD and also to get to know the students in the same program as myself... Now I feel that I have a group of people that I can go to for questions and support. It feels like we are in this together instead of trying to go at it alone."

of students. During each of the past two years, information on the Teachers of the Deaf program was disseminated to all special education directors in the state through digital and print media, as well as at regional special education directors' meetings and statewide conferences.

The Deaf Education coursework is provided through partnerships with Valdosta State University in Georgia and the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, both of which provide candidates an opportunity to earn a master's degree in Deaf Education. To support this partnership, the Kansas State Department of Education and the two participating universities

TOD PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



have developed criteria for license reciprocity. Two participants have thus far completed the program and are actively working as Teachers of the Deaf in Kansas. Eleven individuals are currently participating in the program, and nine of these candidates are expected to complete the program before the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

The Teachers of the Deaf project sent five candidates from the program to the biennial National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY in July 2018. This opportunity allowed them to learn from leaders in the field of deaf education; interact with deaf professionals, utilizing both social and academic American Sign Language; listen to experiences of students who are deaf or hard of hearing as they went through the education system; and reflect on how this experience will better prepare them as Teachers of the Deaf in Kansas. Regional Deaf Ed 101 trainings will be offered throughout Kansas during the 2018-2019 school year.

"The conference was a way to help inspire and motivate me to finish strong at VSU this semester and to continue to do the best to serve my students after graduation."

The overall goal of the Teachers of the Deaf program is to ensure that students who are deaf or hard of hearing are provided with the specialized instruction that they need while also expanding the teachers' repertoires of instructional practices to support an array of students. Teachers can apply for the program by contacting Sarah Cramm at: scramm@kssdb.org or TOD@kssdb.org.

"I can't even begin to explain how much this project has helped me thus far."

