

The Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD), in collaboration with KSDE and the TASN Coordination Project, facilitates access to training to develop **Teachers of the Deaf** by providing 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



Teachers of the Deaf Training: A collaborative interstate partnership with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) teacher preparation program at Valdosta State University has been established and recruitment of Kansas candidates to earn their

Deaf Education licensure endorsement is ongoing. Currently, six individuals are participating in this program. In addition, a pipeline of prospective DHH teachers into the Johnson County Community College sign language program has been established.

"Thank you for recognizing the need for this training and pursuing the funding necessary to make it happen."

-Training Participant

Six potential candidates participated in a one-week immersion mentoring program at the Kansas School for the Deaf in summer 2016.

The program, which was led by experts in the

field of Deaf Education, included hands-on learning opportunities, lectures, and classroom observations all designed to expand the knowledge and skills of current and aspiring teachers of students who are DHH in Kansas. The program was very well received by participants with all six saying they would recommend the experience to others.

While high need for DHH training has been identified, there is a rigorous selection process and high personal commitment required of participants.

To address these challenges to recruitment, changes have been made in both entrance requirements as well as recruiting messages.



"The new brain and language research is incredible. It is nice to have new information to present to parents and administrators to support signing with students, even at a very young age."

-Training Participant

2016 IMMERSION EXPERIENCE EVALUATION RESULTS (5 = Highest Response)

| | PARTICIPANT RESPONSE | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Content of the conference | [Bar chart showing 4.83] | | | | 4.83 |
| Overall reaction to the conference | [Bar chart showing 4.83] | | | | 4.83 |
| Overall effectiveness of the presenters | [Bar chart showing 4.90] | | | | 4.90 |
| The topics reflected my professional needs | [Bar chart showing 4.29] | | | | 4.29 |
| The information I gained will have a positive impact on my daily work | [Bar chart showing 4.38] | | | | 4.38 |
| Overall, attending this presentation was a good use of my time | [Bar chart showing 4.60] | | | | 4.60 |

"I would recommend this program to any teacher in Kansas. I'm excited about learning more."

-Training Participant

For example, proficiency in American Sign Language was previously a prerequisite for the program, but now, American Sign Language proficiency is required prior to completion of the program instead of being

required prior to entry into the program. Also, the focus of recruiting is now on training teachers on expanding current special education instructional practices. This helps districts whose size and student population precludes them from dedicating a teacher solely to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The overall goal 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.



Learn more about the program at www.ksdetasn.org/tod. Teachers can apply for the DHH program by contacting Sarah Cramm at: scramm@kssdb.org or TOD@kssdb.org.



TO LEARN MORE VISIT: WWW.KSDETASN.ORG/TOD