



# ***Arizona Association of the Deaf, Inc.***

## **News Release**

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **State Certification of Arizona American Sign Language Teachers Arizona Public Schools, Community Colleges, Colleges and Universities**

In the best interests of deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Arizona, the Arizona Association of the Deaf (AZAD) recognizes the American Sign Language (ASL) Teacher Certification Program as a viable process of certification that is currently provided by the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA). The ASLTA is the only nationally recognized certifying agency, which certifies ASL teachers in the United States\*.

### **STATEMENT**

The AZAD endorses and encourages the present endeavors of the Arizona Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) to certify ASL teachers in the public schools, community colleges, colleges and universities in the state of Arizona. In addition, the AZAD believes that the ASLTA teacher certification program is acceptable and reliable.

The National Association of the Deaf believes that acquisition of language from birth is a human right for every person, and that deaf infants and children should be given the opportunity to acquire and develop proficiency in ASL as early as possible. ASL is recognized as the sign language of the American deaf community (<http://www.nad.org/NADApprovesNewASLPositionStatement>).

The ACDHH has succeeded in establishing the guidelines for the state certification of sign language interpreters through the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) designed by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). The AZAD commends the ACDHH for its commitment to the state certification of sign language interpreters and intent to promote the future growth potentials of interpreter certification in Arizona.

The AZAD strongly urges the ACDHH to recognize the current ASLTA teacher certification system to get the Arizona ASL teacher certification plan started. Furthermore, the AZAD believes that the ACDHH can continue to foster new concepts and practices for the long-range improvement of the Arizona ASL teacher certification plan.

\*Approved by the AZAD Board of Directors on March 1, 2008

The mission of the AZAD, established in 1936, is to promote, protect and preserve the rights and quality of life of deaf and hard of hearing citizens of the state of Arizona.