

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 6.2     Cuyahoga Community College, Associate of Applied Science degree  
in Deaf Interpretive Services

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the following new degree program is approved:

Cuyahoga Community College  
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Deaf Interpretive Services

## **BACKGROUND**

### **CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Associate of Applied Science degree in Deaf Interpretive Services

Cuyahoga Community College has developed an Associate degree program in Deaf Interpretive Services in response to the need for well trained personnel to provide interpretive services. The program was developed with input from a local advisory committee and the Ohio Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf.

The growing demand for highly skilled interpreters is driven in part by federal legislation requiring that recipients of federal funds make such service accessible and the desire of organizations of all kinds to meet the needs of the deaf community. Cuyahoga Community College's Deaf Interpretive Services Program was developed in accordance with the National Interpreter Education Standards.

There are three commonly accepted sign languages: American Sign Language, Exact English Signing, and Pidgin Sign English, mixture of the other two languages. Students will be trained in all three languages and gain the skills, knowledge and experience to be employed as interpreters in a variety of settings. The National Association of the Deaf is strongly urging achievement of an associate degree in interpretive services as a minimum level of educational attainment for Interpreters. Examples of jobs which graduates may pursue are Sign Language Interpreter, Translator for the Deaf, and Signer for the Deaf.