

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.5 Lakeland Community College, Associate of Applied Science degree in Applied American Sign Language Studies

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:

Lakeland Community College
Associate of Applied Science degree in Applied American Sign Language Studies

BACKGROUND

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Associate of Applied Science degree in Applied American Sign Language Studies

The enactment of the Americans with Disabilities (ACT) in 1992, and Ohio's adoption in 1996 of new licensure standards for interpreters for students who are deaf or hard of hearing has made an increasing demand for qualified interpreters. The low supply of qualified educational interpreters continues to be a barrier to meeting the educational needs of deaf students. The National Association for the Deaf (NAD) and the Registry of Interpreters for Deaf (RID) have stated in their publications that a 'national interpreter crisis' exists. Currently qualified interpreters are in high demand and can be employed either on a full-time or part-time bases.

Deaf students at all levels attend classes with other students but require interpreters to assist them, placing a greater demand on local interpreters and often the need is greater than the supply. The need for interpreters also exists outside of the classroom as community social service agencies, medical facilities, court rooms, public hearings and meetings, churches and others require someone to facilitate the flow of information so effective communication takes place.

The program is designed to give those enrolled a foundation in American Sign Language and to educate them on the basic issues of concern to the Deaf community. Upon completion of the program, students should be able to recognize and understand Deaf persons using American Sign Language idioms, demonstrate effective communication modes with Deaf persons, and sign with Deaf person with a 50%-65% comprehension and accuracy.

Graduates of the American Sign Language Program will find career opportunities in local, county and state government and human service agencies, schools and businesses, medical and health facilities and offices and others.