



For immediate release

Contact: Tina Schultz, Director of Communications; tschultz@rid.org

RID Launches Comprehensive Review of the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Examination

October 26, 2009 — Alexandria, VA — The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), in conjunction with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), is pleased to announce the launch of the first of a series of meetings for a comprehensive review of the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) examination occurred on October 10-11, 2009, at the RID national office.

All certifying bodies must review and revise examinations at regular intervals to guarantee that policies, procedures and standards adhere to contemporary needs, practices and advances in the field. RID is no exception and has appointed a group of diverse subject matter experts to review the current NIC paradigm in order to develop a comprehensive analysis and delineation of modern interpreting practice. Specifically, the NIC Task Force is looking at all aspects of the certification system and will determine if there are psychometrically-sound alternative approaches that are feasible, practical and supportable. In addition, the task force will analyze the various duties of interpreters in all practice settings and formulate a new, refined and enhanced content outline of the occupation that will be used as the blueprint for future NIC examinations.

RID will continue to draw upon the experience of its testing service provider, CASTLE Worldwide, to accomplish this initiative. The NIC Task Force is comprised of thirteen involved, knowledgeable stakeholders, with over 200 years of combined experience in the field of interpreting. They represent a suitable demographic cross section of interpreters, including representatives from both the NAD and RID communities, with substantial practical experience in diverse practice settings, geographic locations, employers and educators. Kelly Flores, Lincoln Park, MI, serves as the RID Board of Directors liaison for the NIC Task Force. The other task force members are Michael Canale, New York, NY; Robyn Dean, Rochester, NY; Judith Gilliam, Talladega, AL; Lisa Gold, Wimberley, TX; Gino Gouby, Alexandria, VA; Jo Linda Greenfield, Westminster, CO; Liz Hill, Frankfort, KY; Daniel Langholtz, San Francisco, CA; Elizabeth Morgan, San Antonio, TX; Geri Mu, San Diego, CA; Debbie Peterson, West Valley City, UT; Linda Ross, Sunbury, OH; and Amanda Smith, Keizer, OR.

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), a national membership organization representing professionals who facilitate communication between people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people who can hear, has played a leading role in establishing a national standard of quality for interpreters and transliterators. It is the mission of RID to provide international, national, regional, state and local forums and an organizational structure for the continued growth and development of the profession of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English. www.rid.org

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is the nation's premier civil rights organization of, by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America. Established in 1880, the NAD was shaped by deaf leaders who believed in the right of the American deaf community to use sign language, to congregate on issues important to them and to have its interests represented at the national level. These beliefs remain true to this day, with American Sign Language as a core value. The advocacy scope of the NAD is broad, covering a lifetime and impacting future generations in the areas of early intervention, education, employment, health care, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership, and more – improving the lives of millions of deaf and hard of hearing Americans. The NAD also carries out its federal advocacy work through coalition efforts with specialized national deaf and hard of hearing organizations, as well as coalitions representing national cross-disability organizations.

333 Commerce St., Alexandria, VA 22314 ■ 703.838.0030 V ■ 703.838.0459 TTY ■ 703.838.0454 Fax ■ www.rid.org