

February 19, 2020

Dear Community,

Subj: Regional Resource Center on Deafness (RRCD) Announces Department Name Change with new Mission Statement, Goals and Expansion.

The Regional Resource Center on Deafness (RRCD), a center in the College of Education at Western Oregon University announces its department name change to the Research and Resource Center with Deaf* communities (RRCD) effective on March 1, 2020.

The asterisk that sits next to the terminology of Deaf in the department's title has been adopted, with minor adaptations, from the definition of 'Deaf' that is used by the National Deaf Center (NDC). The RRCD is using the term deaf in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as D/deaf, DeafBlind, deaf-blind, deaf with additional disabilities, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and/or persons with unilateral/bilateral hearing loss. The RRCD recognizes that for many individuals, identity is fluid and can change over time or with the setting. The RRCD has chosen to use one term, Deaf, with the goal of recognizing experiences that are shared by all members of our diverse communities while also honoring all of our differences. (Source: <https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/defining-deaf>)

The department has used the name, "Regional Resource Center on Deafness," for more than 45 years, achieving in managing multiple grants primarily with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to provide funding for students. Students have been able to enroll in graduate program programs, such as Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, Deaf Education, and Interpreting Studies, and the undergraduate program in ASL/English Interpreting. In the last 26 years, the RRCD has brought in nearly \$30M in diverse revenues, primarily grant funding, from the US Department of Education. With the new mission and goals, the RRCD will strive to expand and diversify the opportunity to serve the Deaf* communities in the state of Oregon and nationwide.

The RRCD adopted a new mission statement: "The RRCD supports Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals by engaging students, professionals, and other stakeholders in practices, advocacy, research, and training."

The RRCD is committed to doing our PART through goals in:

Practice:

The RRCD is committed to transforming ethical, reflective, and dynamic practices through application of evidence-based solutions.

Advocacy:

The RRCD will provide resources to increase the provision of research, scholarship, and educational materials.

Research:

The RRCD aims to be recognized as a center of excellence for innovative research and programming.

Training:

The RRCD will continue to provide educational opportunities and programming focused on the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing communities.

Finally, the RRCD is expanding its work with DeafBlind communities by moving the Oregon Deafblind Project (ODBP) from The Research Institute (TRI) to the RRCD. The ODBP is on their year 2 of a 5-year grant and is funded through the Office of Special Education Programs a unit of the U.S. Department of Education. The ODBP provides technical assistance, training, and information to families and service providers at no cost to enhance services for children in Oregon who are Deafblind from birth through age of 21 years.

We are confident that the new name, mission, goal and expansion enable us to serve the community better and we look forward to connecting with you in the near future.

Sincerely,



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