

Advocacy for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

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Sponsorship: [ASG or Delegate Assembly]

WHEREAS, interpreting services for students who communicate via sign language are essential for equitable access to education, yet the financial burden of these services often falls on the students themselves; a significant financial barrier to accessibility and full participation in academic and social environments exists;

WHEREAS, fifty-one percent (51%) of students with disabilities, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, report experiencing barriers to accessibility and communication in educational institutions, impacting their academic success and engagement; [1]

WHEREAS, the availability of trained and certified interpreters for sign language and other communication support services is often limited [1], resulting in delayed or insufficient access for students who depend on these resources;

WHEREAS, the lack of comprehensive cultural understanding and training among staff, faculty, and students can lead to unintentional biases and exclusion of deaf and hard of hearing students from academic and social activities; now it be;

RESOLVED, that the SSCCC advocate for increased awareness of, and expanded resources for, the deaf and hard of hearing community within California community colleges to address community needs;

RESOLVED, that the SSCCC regions draft toolkits to facilitate the implementation of workshops and training sessions focused on: understanding deaf culture, removing cultural biases, and promoting interactions with members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community;

RESOLVED, that the SSCCC form a task force dedicated to hiring a permanent staff member who serves as an interpreter, and expanding accessibility services; this task force should require

the active participation of students utilizing sign language interpretation, note-taking services, and captioned video resources in the selection and oversight process;

RESOLVED, that the SSCCC advocate for additional funding at the state and institutional levels to cover the costs of interpreting and captioning services, ensuring that students are not financially burdened by accessibility needs.

Citations:

[1]

<https://nationaldeafcenter.org/resources/research-data/deaf-college-student-data/pod-report/#conclusion>