



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RID and NAD Embark on NIC Enhancement Process

*Credential to Reflect Feedback from Members and Consumers,
Best Practices, and New Testing Techniques and Technologies*

ALEXANDRIA, VA — The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) today announced that they are moving forward to enhance the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) credential. RID is proceeding expeditiously to implement enhancements that will strengthen the effectiveness and increase the value of the NIC credential for all stakeholders.

The multi-year plan begins later this year, when RID will implement a new NIC scoring process that will shift the credential to a one-level scoring format. The revisions will take advantage of new testing techniques and technologies to increase the accuracy, consistency and reliability of the scoring process and effectively measure the competency of applicants. In addition, the new system will allow RID to provide NIC exam results substantially faster.

“As a result of feedback from the interpreter and Deaf communities, and in keeping with certification best practices, we are conducting a comprehensive review of the NIC program and examination, as well as planning for future enhancements,” said RID President Cheryl Moose. “Deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing consumers, as well as those in and connected to the interpreting field, will benefit from an NIC program that better represents the competency of those who hold the credential.”

RID will assist stakeholders in understanding and addressing the enhancements to the NIC program by focusing on greater communications and education about the NIC exam and the certification program overall.

“The enhanced NIC credential will allow for greater accuracy in the assignment of interpreters, and reflect the significant changes that have taken place in the interpreting profession and deaf and hard of hearing community during the past 10 years,” said NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins. “We look forward to working with RID and other stakeholders as we move forward with an enhanced NIC.”

An initial profession-wide survey assessing areas of specialization in interpreting will be launched immediately following the 2011 RID National Conference, being held in Atlanta, GA, from July 17-22. This will be followed by a larger, comprehensive Job Task Analysis (JTA) survey. The results of these studies will guide the development of two new exams, tentatively titled NIC I and NIC II. These exams will assess candidates at an entry level and an experienced level, respectively, and will form the basis for certification at these levels. Specialty exams designed to assess specialized skills will be developed in the future. As part of the crucial JTA that will shape future NIC enhancements and examinations, RID will survey thousands of RID members, non-member interpreters, representatives from the deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing communities, and others.

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The NIC enhancements are a result of recommendations made by the NAD-RID NIC Task Force, which is comprised of RID and NAD subject matter experts representing a cross-section of the interpreter and Deaf communities. The Task Force was convened in 2009 to assist the RID and NAD Boards of Directors in a thorough review of the NIC paradigm. In the initial stages of their work, Task Force members received feedback from RID members, the Deaf community and a variety of other stakeholders before developing their recommendations. The process that began in 2009 continues today, and RID will continue to collect data and feedback as enhancements to the NIC exam and overall program are defined.

Implementing technological advances and streamlining administrative processes will increase the validity and reliability of the scoring process and reduce exam scoring time, addressing concerns raised about the appropriateness and fairness of the NIC Interview and Performance Examination. An enhanced NIC credential will represent the state-of-the-art in certification strategy and technology, and reflect current realities and demands in the profession and the Deaf community since the NIC Knowledge exam was first offered in 2004 and the NIC Interview and Performance Exam was first offered in 2005.

“RID will work with, involve and support the interpreter and Deaf communities throughout the NIC enhancement and implementation process,” said Moose. “RID and NAD are committed to a collaborative effort that will benefit from the collective experience and expertise of all groups with a stake in the NIC credential and RID certification program overall.”

As RID undertakes the JTA and the NIC enhancement process moves forward, RID and NAD will provide updates as future updates to the NIC are identified. More information can be found at www.rid.org/NICNews.

About RID

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 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. For more information, visit www.rid.org.

About NAD

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.

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