



Deaf Disempowerment and Today's Interpreter

Presented by: **Trudy Suggs**

Trudy Suggs, based on her November 2012 viral video, provides a historical overview of how interpreters and Deaf people have contributed, unintentionally and intentionally, to the disempowerment of Deaf people. She examines situational and economic disempowerment, such as working as ASL and/or Baby Sign Language teachers, Deaf/parent mentors or role models, Deaf studies program administrators, and even being uncertified. Participants explore the cultural norms and boundaries of different scenarios, leading into a discussion of thought-provoking questions and ideas for how to minimize or eradicate marginalization of Deaf people. She also explores transparency, suggests resolutions and invites input.

November 19, 2014 @ 7pm-9pm ET / 6pm-8pm CT / 5pm-7pm MT / 4pm-6pm PT – Online Only



Trudy Suggs, CDI, has a bachelor's degree from Gallaudet University and a master's degree from University of Illinois-Chicago. She worked for a large non-profit organization for two years. After taking a year off to travel the U.S. by herself, she became editor in chief of Silent News before establishing T.S. Writing Services. She has also taught online courses for Gallaudet University and Gotham Writers' Workshop.

Trudy has served as secretary of the National Association of the Deaf, vice president and president of the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, and board member for the National Deaf Business Institute. A certified deaf interpreter, Trudy chaired the

Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Deaf Caucus, the Minnesota RID Deaf Interpreting Group and RID's national CDI task force. Additionally, she co-chaired the Illinois State Police Communication Issues committee, which resulted in an Illinois State Police Academy training course for all cadets.

In 2008, she received the Gallaudet University Alumni Association's Outstanding Young Alumnus award and the National Association of the Deaf's CEO Award. In 2009, she was selected by Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie as a National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Award recipient. She and her family make their home in Frederick, Maryland.

St. Catherine University is an approved RID sponsor for continuing education activities. This program is offered for 0.2 CEUs per workshop in the area of Professional Studies and assumes some knowledge of the topic.



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