

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
COUNCIL of STATE ADMINISTRATORS of VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION
and
THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE for the DEAF
At ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

I. Purpose

In order to advance, improve and expand employment outcomes for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, the Council of State Administrators of Vocational rehabilitation (CSAVR) and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology (NTID/RIT), herein commit themselves to work cooperatively in implementing the objectives set forth in this agreement.

The CSAVR, an advisory body of the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Education on policy, regulations and the administration of programs affecting persons with disabilities, provides a forum for the collective deliberation of State Vocational rehabilitation agencies on issues affecting the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities; and informs the public about the effect of disability on the lives of persons with disabilities, particularly with respect to employment and economic independence.

The mission of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf is to provide deaf students with outstanding, state-of-the-art technical and professional education programs, complemented by a strong arts and sciences curriculum, that prepare them to work in the mainstream of a rapidly changing global community and enhance their lifelong learning. NTID's distinctive programs, as well as its responsiveness to the needs of business and industry, are designed to maximize the career development and employability of students in technological, business, scientific, artistic, and other professional fields...As a college of RIT, NTID offers its students a unique educational living and learning environment where deaf and hearing people reside, study and collaborate.

II. Statement of Need

The CSAVR and NTID/RIT believe that quality career education and employment outcomes for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can be increased and improved through a continued strong working relationship between State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies (VR) and NTID/RIT.

III. Terms of Cooperative Agreement

The CSAVR and NTID will communicate to state agencies support for the establishment of cooperative agreements as appropriate, between state agencies and NTID.

The CSAVR and NTID will share information and coordinate activities, as appropriate, to carry out and support the objectives of this cooperative agreement.

The CSAVR and NTID will provide technical assistance and support to any State VR Agency which requests assistance in facilitating the development of cooperative agreements.

NTID will appoint a senior level administrative officer to serve as NTID/RIT's liaison with CSAVR and to serve as an ex officio member of CSAVR's Committee on Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Deaf Blind to facilitate the terms of this agreement.

NTID will maintain regular communication with State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies related to deaf and hard of hearing students enrolled at RIT/NTID. NTID's annual report will continue to include data related to state by state enrollments, VR Agency support and employment outcomes. This information will continue to be available via NTID's web site at www.ntid.rit.edu. State agencies will be sent reminders to access this information as well as other information available to assist VR counselors on a regular basis. State VR counselors serving deaf and hard of hearing students will continue to receive NTID materials via regular mailings as well.

IV. Authority

This agreement does not in itself authorize the expenditure or reimbursement of any funds. Nothing in this agreement shall obligate the parties to expend appropriations or other monies, or to enter into any contract or other obligation.

Further, this agreement shall not be interpreted to limit, supercede, or other wise affect either party's normal operations or decisions in carrying out its mission, statutory or regulatory duties. Nothing in this agreement shall be interpreted as altering any eligibility requirements for the public VR program authorized under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act.

V. Effective Date/Duration

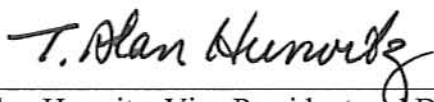
This agreement shall become effective upon signature of the underlined parties. This agreement may be terminated at any time upon 30 days advance notice by one party to the other, and may be amended by the written agreement of both parties or their designees.



Steve Shivers, President
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

4-18-05

Date



T. Alan Hurwitz, Vice President and Dean
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

4/18/05

Date