



ONE
FOCUS > YOUR
SUCCESS

START A CAREER AS AN
AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE
INTERPRETER



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SUCCESS

FRONT RANGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WESTMINSTER CAMPUS

BUILD A BRIDGE
BETWEEN THE
HEARING AND DEAF
COMMUNITIES

Real-world preparation

The Interpreter Preparation Program (IPP) at Front Range Community College is a rigorous American Sign Language program designed to prepare students to meet the high standards of the sign language interpreting field. Graduates can specialize in areas such as medical, legal, and educational interpreting, and can work in a variety of community settings, for sign language interpreting agencies or government agencies, as freelance interpreters, in schools, or in many other areas.

GRADUATE PROFILE David Sabala



David graduated from the University of Colorado-Boulder with a double major in English and philosophy. "I was trying to figure out my next step. Some Deaf friends suggested I consider becoming an interpreter. It's been an amazing ride ever since." David credits FRCC's faculty with providing him with the tools and critical-thinking skills needed

in the interpreting profession. An interpreter for six years, David had stints in educational settings and Video Relay Interpreting before becoming a staff interpreter with Professional Sign Language Interpreting Inc. (PSLI). "I appreciate the Deaf community I work for and with. This field is never boring, I learn new things every day, and I am constantly challenged to better myself, not only as an interpreter but as a person. For this, I consider myself very fortunate."

Earn an A.A.S. in Interpreter Preparation

Our full-time Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program prepares students for entry-level employment as sign language interpreters. By attending classes on a full-time basis, students may complete the program in two years.

Students must apply for the program and meet the following prerequisites:

- Receive a grade of B or higher in American Sign Language I and II (ASL 121 and ASL 122).
- Receive a grade of B or higher in English Composition I (ENG 121).
- Receive a grade of B or higher in Cultural Anthropology (ANT 101)

Transfer to Regis University to earn a bachelor's degree

Since 2012, professionals seeking certification by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) must hold at least a bachelor's degree. FRCC IPP's A.A.S. degree transfers students into Regis University's Bachelor of Applied Science degree program (community interpreting specialization). Contact your advisor for more details.

Growing job prospects

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for interpreters and translators in the coming decade is expected to increase 22 percent—much faster than the average for all occupations.

Annual salaries

	Entry level	Median	Experienced
Interpreters & Translators	\$36,979/year	\$57,468/year	\$67,712/year

¹Colorado Department of Labor and Employment Occupational Employment Statistics Survey (2012)

WORK IN AN AGENCY OR A SCHOOL

Get certified

Upon completion of the Interpreter Preparation Program, you can pursue certification through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). If you plan to work in educational interpreting in elementary and secondary school classroom settings, you can pursue the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). Some school districts or interpreting agencies may require interpreters to submit their EIPA score before employment.

Program requirements*

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Required Courses

- ASL 123 ASL III
- ASL 125 Fingerspelling
- ASL 221 ASL IV
- ASL 222 ASL V
- ASL 244 Linguistics
- IPP 115 Intro to Language and Communication
- IPP 121 Aspects of Interpreting I
- IPP 122 Aspects of Interpreting II
- IPP 125 Oral Transliterating
- IPP 135 Introduction to Interpreting
- IPP 145 Deaf People in Society
- IPP 147 Survey of Deaf Culture
- IPP 205 Educational Interpreting
- IPP 225 English to ASL Interpreting
- IPP 227 ASL to English Interpreting
- IPP 229 Transliterating
- IPP 235 Advanced Interpreting
- IPP 278 Interpreter Seminar
- IPP 282 Internship

*See our website for program entry requirements.

ASL LEAD FACULTY PROFILE

Michelle Stricklen



Michelle was an American Sign Language (ASL) instructor at FRCC in the 1990s and now has returned, complete with a bachelor's degree in deaf studies, cum laude, from Gallaudet University. "I am glad to be back at FRCC," Michelle signs. "I consider my greatest asset to be my teaching ability, especially with the development of new ideas,

such as a current sign language, that I can share with ASL/IPP students. I want to share my passion and knowledge with my students with every opportunity I have." She recalls a student who at first didn't know sign language. "I encouraged him to continue to learn and to be immersed in Deaf culture," Michelle signs. These days, that student is approaching his own graduation from Gallaudet. And Michelle is adding to her body of knowledge by enrolling in graduate studies in ASL education at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD.

ASL & MULTIMEDIA LEAD FACULTY PROFILE

Elsie Ritchie, M.A.



Elsie, who has taught American Sign Language (ASL) in many settings, is lead faculty for ASL and Multimedia. "My teaching philosophy is three-fold and includes hands-on activities, observation and challenge, and bringing the Deaf world into the classroom," Elsie signs. "By exposing my students to Deaf culture, they will have an opportunity to grow professionally and personally, as culture and language are always connected." Elsie has a bachelor's degree in communications and master's degree in sign language education from Gallaudet University. She volunteers with ASLized (<http://aslized.org>), a nonprofit organization that fosters the integration of ASL educational research into visual media and literacy.

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IPP LEAD FACULTY PROFILE

Susan Faltinson, M.S.



After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in social work and a six-year career as a camp director, Susan rediscovered a passion for American Sign Language, which she had learned at the age of 10. She enrolled in the Interpreter Preparation Program, graduated in 1997, and became a freelance interpreter, working in medical, legal, mental health,

religious, educational, performing arts, platform, and video relay settings. By 2004, Susan also was teaching part time at FRCC. "It's so rewarding to help people become a part of this great profession," she says. "For most of them, the IPP is a life-changing experience, as it was for me." In 2011, Susan joined the IPP faculty. "I enjoy working with students to make sure we meet the ever-changing expectations for interpreters."

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PROFILE

Diane Otto



Diane is the first point of contact when students seek information about the Interpreter Preparation Program (IPP). As the program's administrative assistant, Diane helps students from initial contact right through to graduation. "I like supporting students and absorbing their enthusiasm for the interpreting profession," says Diane, an Iowa

native. "That is my favorite part of my job." Diane, who has worked in IPP for more than 15 years, is a resource for students as they progress through IPP. "I get to know the students pretty well," she says. Diane has a Bachelor of Arts in speech, language, and hearing sciences from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She is a conversational signer.



Susan Faltinson, IPP lead faculty (in foreground), interpreted when President Obama visited Denver.



Deaf student Rudolfo Tapia Jr., left, communicates with IPP graduate and educational interpreter Dori LaJeunesse.

GET STARTED!

Contact Diane Otto

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