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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CSUN DEAF EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARDED \$1.25 MILLION FOR FIVE YEARS  
TO PREPARE TEACHERS WITH A COLLABORATIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY MODEL**

Northridge, CA (October 6, 2014) – The Deaf Education specialization in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education, Department of Special Education, at California State University, Northridge today announced it received a \$1.25 million award from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education.

The grant, titled “IDEP: Interdisciplinary Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program,” will enhance the current Deaf Education program in teacher preparation by integrally involving Deaf community members, parents, interpreters and paraeducators, as well as related service professionals.

“Because of the unique and varied needs of deaf students, it is essential that deaf educators collaborate with a wide variety of people who are invested in educating Deaf children,” said Judy Coryell, the project director and adjunct faculty member in the department.

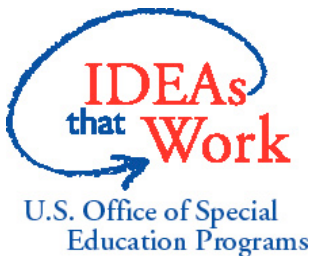
The **Interdisciplinary Deaf Education Teacher Preparation Program (IDEP)** is designed to address the critical shortage of highly qualified special educators prepared to specifically serve Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind students. From 2008-2010, the number of candidates enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the California State University level has decreased by 18 percent. The need for highly qualified special educators was recognized by the state in 2011 as specific goals were established to address these shortages.

Ellen Schneiderman and Rachel Friedman Narr, both professors in the Deaf Education specialization, conceived the idea that emphasizes a model involving other people who have a stake in preparing teachers. The essential roles of families, the Deaf community, related-service professionals like speech pathologists and audiologists, as well as interpreters and classroom assistants, will become an integral part of the content in the preparation of deaf educators.

The new grant program will start admitting students for enrollment in Spring 2015. Program faculty will recruit a limited number of qualified applicants.

The Deaf Education teacher preparation program at CSUN is one of only two bilingual ASL-English preparation programs in California. It is nationally known for preparing outstanding special educators.

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