

Deaf Mentor National Training Team

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Jodee Crace

Jodee Crace has worked in the field of Early Deaf Education for 15 years as an early intervention provider working with deaf and deaf blind babies and their families. She is currently the Deaf Mentor (DM) in Indiana as well as providing National DM Trainings (for the SKI-HI Institute). Also, she has served on the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing since 2013 and is the past president of the American Society for Deaf Children.

Paula Pittman

Paula Pittman has worked in the field of early childhood deaf education for thirty-three years as an early intervention provider working with deaf, blind and deafblind infants and toddlers and their families. She is the director of SKI-HI and Deaf Mentor Outreach services at the SKI-HI Institute at Utah State University and is also the director of the Parent Infant Program for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind. She has had the opportunity to train early intervention providers across the USA and around the world.

Stacy Abrams

I was born deaf in Arkansas to hearing parents. My parents and some family members learned to sign with my older deaf sister and me. I am a proud alumni of Arkansas School for the Deaf. I would not be where I am if I did not have the support of my hearing parents, who did everything they could to support me. Because of their commitment to me, I was able to do a lot of things. I am a Gallaudet & University of California Santa Barbara alumna. I was a teacher for a few years before becoming a Deaf Mentor Program Coordinator in both New Mexico (7 years) and Arizona (2.5 years). I am currently the Coordinator of Training for Clerc Center at Gallaudet University. I coordinate different trainings that Clerc Center has to offer. The Clerc Center supports professionals and families through the dissemination of resources, training and evidence-based information in the areas of professional development, family-school partnerships and national collaborations. It is important to support the linguistic, educational and social-emotional needs of deaf kids from birth to high school. My background is in early intervention- mostly in supporting hearing families with deaf children on their journey. I am also a National Deaf Mentor Trainer for the Deaf Mentor Training Team at the SKI-HI Institute. I serve as one of two deaf adults on the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing.

A year and half ago, I came up with the #whyisign campaign to support families on their signing journey. The campaign also includes deaf adults' stories, stories from hearing professionals, CODAs, interpreters, ASL students, and so forth. They all support signing, and encourage families to sign with their deaf children. The campaign also shares resources for families to continue on their journey of raising deaf children, and that includes deaf culture, deaf community, and happenings. I am a mom to two deaf children, Coffey (12), and Mattea (10). I enjoy life, and that includes traveling, keeping up with what's happening in the deaf community & deaf education.