

NRSC and DeafTEC National Math and Science Conference 2024

Presenters



Debbie Andries-Eggers Elementary Assistant Principal, Texas School for the Deaf

Recently retired, Debbie Andries worked at Texas School for the Deaf for 34 years. Ms. Andries began as a substitute before joining the Multi-Handicapped/Deaf (later Special Needs) Department. She taught Life Skills in the Independent Living Program before moving to the classroom. There, she taught mixed-grade classes both life skills and academics for 15 years before becoming a Curriculum Specialist for six years. Ms. Andries served as Principal of the Special Needs Department in 2018-2019 as the program merged its students into grade-level schools, and then the last five years of her career as an Assistant Principal in the Elementary program.



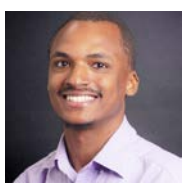
Elizabeth Ayers Senior Lecturer, RIT/NTID

Liz is a clinical and university instructor with 26 years of ongoing practice. At NTID, Liz teaches environmental science and genetics while tutoring and mentoring NTID students in health and science majors at RIT. In 2023, Liz received the Outstanding Teaching/Tutoring Award for Non-Tenure Faculty and was a finalist for the Provost's Innovative Teaching with Technology Award. Liz is also a peer reviewer for "Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography" and the Director of Healthcare Mentoring with the Deaf Health Care and Biomedical Sciences Hub (Deaf Hub) at NTID, while continuing her clinical practice at Highland Hospital.



Brandon Call Science Teacher, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind

Brandon Call is a middle school science teacher at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Augustine, FL. He graduated from California School for the Deaf, Fremont, and then from Gallaudet University. He is interested in biology/zoology and loves to explore outdoors. His motto is "Explore to Learn. Learn to Teach. Teach to Explore." He is the host of "Wild Saga", an episodic series of nature and wildlife.



Kemoy Campbell Dept. of Information and Computing Studies, RIT/NTID

Kemoy Campbell (he/him) is a visiting lecturer in NTID's Information and Computing Studies Department. He teaches a variety of computing courses and is an alumnus of RIT, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a minor in Computing Security. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Kemoy serves as a faculty advisor for the NTID Cybersecurity Club and as a support faculty tutor in RIT's Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. There, he tutors students in the bachelor's programs. Currently, he is pursuing a master's degree in software engineering. His areas of interest include programming, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, software architecture, and open source development.



Scott Cohen Doctoral Candidate, Georgia State University

Scott Cohen, a doctoral candidate in science education at Georgia State University, is engaged in interdisciplinary work with science learning opportunities through signed language for deaf students and the community. Deaf since birth, his lived experience involved being both a student and teacher in deaf education that guided through his scholarship on creating inclusive and accessible learning experiences for deaf students, who are historically excluded from science and STEM spaces.



Michelle Halvorsen Science Teacher, Texas School for the Deaf

Michelle Halvorsen has recently returned to teaching high school science at Texas School for the Deaf. She previously served as a trainer for the DeafTEC program at RIT/NTID. She has a bachelor's degree in Deaf Education from Illinois State University and a master's degree in biology from Washington University in St. Louis. Michelle is also a certified ASL interpreter and spent several years interpreting in the community and for college classes before returning to teach at TSD.



Victoria Holcomb Middle School Math Teacher, Alabama School for the Deaf

Victoria is a passionate educator, who tells her students that “Math and Science are best friends” and looks forward to this conference. She has been a teacher for students who are deaf and hard of hearing for 16 years, with experience teaching K-12th grade. She has spent most of her career teaching 7th-8th grade mathematics, helping kids get ready for high school math, as well as coaching the competitive drone team, middle school math team, and underwater robotics team. She has a drive for helping students, and especially in helping instill a love of math that they can carry through to adulthood. She has a wonderful husband of 20 years, and two teenage children that she loves dearly. Hobbies include crocheting, and spending time with her family.



Dr. Dawn Hoyt Kidd Lamar University, Adjunct Instructor. DeafTEC Consultant, RIT/NTID

Dr. Dawn Hoyt Kidd retired from the Texas School for the Deaf in 2022 after 30+ years. There she taught high school and middle school mathematics, and served as the curriculum specialist for K-12 mathematics. She currently teaches pre-service teachers at the Austin site of Lamar University. She was one of the original members of the DeafTEC project started at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in 2011, and continues to be part of the DeafTEC Resource Center. Her professional interests are providing quality teaching in mathematics and STEM for deaf/hh students, as well as the emphasis of language within math and STEM learning. Outside of the classroom she enjoys hiking, kayaking, camping, reading, and her family.



William Jennison High School Math Teacher, Alabama School for the Deaf

William Jennison is a high school math teacher at the Alabama School for the Deaf and is currently in his 15th year of teaching. He earned his B.A. in Mathematics and M.A. in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University. He enjoys learning new math activities and applying them to promote student thinking and discourse. During free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, playing sports and spending time outdoors.



Paige Kenausis Assistant Principal, American School for the Deaf

Paige Kenausis has been working in math and science education in deaf schools, mainstream public programs, and private schools since graduating from Columbia Teachers College in 1986 with her most significant math experience at the middle school level. Her professional passions lie in financial education and making algebra processes visual and engaging. When not thinking about math instruction, Paige can be found cooking, running, or engaged in DIY home improvements. She is currently a Math Competition Coach and Assistant Principal for the PACES program at the American School for the Deaf and enjoys sneaking into STEM classes just for fun whenever she can.



Dr. Karen Kritzer Faculty, Kent State University

Dr. Karen L. Kritzer, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and director of the Deaf Education Program at Kent State University. Prior to university, Dr. Kritzer taught DHH students from preschool to upper elementary grade levels and worked with families through early intervention. Dr. Kritzer teaches courses in Deaf Studies, Language Development, and Curriculum Design for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Her research focuses on mathematics education for young deaf children and family/home-related factors that contribute to early learning and the development of critical thinking skills for this population. She has multiple publications and has presented nationally and internationally on related topics.



Dr. Chong Min Lee High School Math Teacher, Metro Deaf School

Dr. Chong Min Lee is a high school mathematics teacher at Metro Deaf School in St. Paul, MN, where she instructs a variety of courses, including Elementary math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I/II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, and elective subjects. In addition to her role at Metro Deaf School, she is a contributing faculty member in the Human Services program at Walden University. Before joining Metro Deaf School, she taught Deaf education, Deaf culture/history, Bilingual Education courses at several universities. Her professional interests focus on mathematics learning strategies and fostering critical thinking skills in math classrooms.



Dr. Claudia Pagliaro Professor Emerita, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Dr. Claudia Pagliaro is recognized internationally for her work over the past three decades in mathematics instruction and learning with DHH students (PK-12), language and cognition, and teacher education. She has presented around the globe and has authored numerous publications. These days, Dr. Pagliaro can be found more by the ocean than by the numbers.



Lexi Porter Secondary Teacher of the Deaf - Math, Jean Massieu School (Utah Schools of the Deaf)

Lexi Porter is on her fourth year of teaching in Utah, now in her second year of teaching math. Lexi brings a fresh, innovative outlook to the classroom, focusing on engaging and interactive learning experiences. Passionate about helping students develop critical thinking skills and a love for math, Lexi strives to make math fun and enjoyable. Outside of teaching, she enjoys spending time outdoors, paddle boarding, and skiing, as well as hanging out with friends and family.



Connie Potersnak Science Teacher, Texas School for the Deaf

Connie Potersnak has worked as a teacher at Texas School for the Deaf for 33 years. She began in the Multi-Handicapped/Deaf (later Special Needs) Department, teaching mixed-grade classes Life Skills and Academics. In 2019, the Special Needs Program merged its students into grade-level schools, and Ms. Potersnak joined the Middle School as a Science teacher. This had been her primary area of focus for many years in SND. She has worked with students who excel in traditional academics as well as with students who show their academic strengths in other ways. She has presented at workshops and in school programs. In 2019, she received the Eugene W. Petersen Award for Excellence in Service at the ADARA-AMPHL Conference.



Dr. Chad Smith Faculty, Blackburn College

Dr. Smith was a Professor within Texas Woman's University (TWU) Education of the Deaf Program for 18 years. He has a master's in Deaf Studies and Habilitation from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and a doctorate in Computing Technology in Education from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He spent a decade teaching K-12 deaf/hard-of-hearing (DHH) students in Texas public schools. He coordinated the TWU Future Classroom Lab (TWUFCL) that he co-founded with colleague Dr. Ludovic Sourdout. After 28 years of teaching in Texas, he retired and currently teaches special education at Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois.



Shari Solomon-Klebba Secondary Teacher of the Deaf - Science, Jean Massieu School (Utah Schools of the Deaf)

Shari Solomon-Klebba brings over 30 years of dedicated teaching experience for the deaf across Utah, Maine, Wyoming, and Colorado, focusing primarily on secondary science education. Currently serving as a science instructor at Jean Massieu School with Utah Schools for the Deaf, she also coaches the Academic Bowl for high school students. Outside the classroom, Shari enjoys exploring the great outdoors and relishing ocean moments with her wife and college-aged daughter. Her passion for science and commitment to empowering deaf students resonate through her teaching and extracurricular contributions.



Stefanie Stamatis High School Math Teacher of the Deaf/HH, New York School for the Deaf

With 14 years of experience, Stefanie Stamatis is a dedicated Math Teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing. Throughout her career, she has also been a Math Department Chair and Part-Time Math Coordinator. She holds NYS certifications in Deaf & HH and Mathematics 7-12. She earned a BA in Deaf Education with a concentration in mathematics and a minor in educational psychology from Indiana University of PA, an MA in TESOL from Stony Brook, and an Advanced Certificate in School Building Leadership from St. John's University. She lives in Westchester, NY with her wonderful husband and daughter.



Jennifer Swartzenberg Senior Lecturer, RIT/NTID

Jennifer Swartzenberg is an RIT alum, graduating with both her BS and MS in chemistry from the School of Chemistry and Material Science within RIT's College of Science. Since graduating in 2013, she has worked at NTID and holds the rank of Senior Lecturer. In that role she tutors D/HH students in BS- and MS- level chemistry courses. She coordinated the first group of deaf organic chemistry teaching assistants on campus, running weekly organic chemistry workshops, which continue to this day. Outside of work, Jennifer enjoys gardening, baking, cooking, politics, and spending time with her family, friends, and pets.



Brian Trager Dept. of Information and Computing Studies, RIT/NTID

Brian Trager serves as NTID's Chairperson of the Information and Computing Studies department. He has imparted instruction in a diverse range of subjects, including computer hardware, networking, web development, programming, and mobile app development. In addition, Brian has actively participated in research initiatives focused on accessibility. Notably, he collaborated on a project with Microsoft that centered on captions utilizing automatic speech recognition. This collaboration led to the development of a product known as Live Captions in Microsoft PowerPoint. He has also contributed to the development of meta captions for augmented reality applications. More recently, Brian has ventured into the realm of AI research related to accessibility. Currently, he holds the role of co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) for the DeafTEC Resource Center grant. Brian's educational background encompasses a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and a Master of Science degree in Information Technology, both earned at RIT.



Rachel Tyson Classroom Teacher, American School for the Deaf

Rachel Tyson is a classroom teacher at the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT.

