Title – State Qualifications for an American Sign Language Interpreter

Program of Study – American Sign Language and Interpreting

Presentation Type – Physical Poster

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Category – Applied

Abstract

This project analyzes the qualifications for American Sign Language interpreters within the states that comprise regions one and two. Licensure is founded on a basis that would discourage individuals not competent from interpreting. However, there is a significant disproportion between those interpreters emanating from states that have licensure laws established and those interpreters that emanate from states that do not require a license in order to interpret. If licensure requires one to finish a program and maintain the license by a yearly fee, therein could be the correlation of an inferior interpreting product between interpreters in licensure states compared to the quality of a product from an interpreter in a non-licensure state. The methods of this paper include determining which states require licensure and which states have qualifications. Next, determine the requirements to obtain a licensure and the requirements to interpret in other states that have no licensure requirements to see if there is a correlation between what is required and the quality of the product from interpreters in that state. If there is a correlation between these two factors, there will be an analysis of the factors that could adjust in order to promote superior qualification standards for the profession. One area of further research that would be crucial in figuring out the problem would be to delve into analyzing statistics about how many interpreters who hold a licensure go on to get their national licensure and cross-analyze that with how many

interpreters who are not licensed receive their national certification to see if there is a correlation

between how individual interpreters feel about the professional advancement level of the national

certification.