

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.
Affiliate Chapter Relations Committee

Affiliate Chapter Handbook
Third Edition
Section 15

Recruiting Graduates of an Interpreting Program:
Passing the Torch

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Recruiting Graduates of an Interpreting Program

One way for affiliate chapters to grow is to have a strong working relationship with the interpreter training (preparation) programs (ITP) located in their state/area. Affiliate chapters that wait until after students graduate to begin recruiting new members are missing out on a golden opportunity.

Listed below are some suggested activities to let students know about RID and the affiliate chapter.

1. Contact the ITP and arrange for an officer or member to talk to the beginning class; be sure to have membership applications to pass out that day. Do not forget to take newsletters to hand out. The more visuals the students have, the more successful your efforts will be.
2. Hold an affiliate chapter meeting or workshop on the college campus; solicit students to handle the registration table or other duties.
3. Offer a student rate for membership.
4. Have a student column in the affiliate chapter newsletter.
5. Have a student liaison on the board.
6. Send your affiliate chapter newsletter to the ITP.
7. Work through the ITP director and invite a student to observe an affiliate chapter board meeting. The affiliate chapter may reimburse the student for mileage and meals. In return the student is expected to take information back and share it with the other students. In addition, the student can write an article for the affiliate chapter newsletter sharing his/her perspective.

Continue recruitment efforts once the students have graduated. Now is the time to:

1. Send a congratulatory letter/card to each graduate.
2. Give each graduate a free year's membership to the affiliate chapter.
3. Assign a "Big Sister/Big Brother" to each graduate; personal contacts are always more successful than generic ones.
4. Host a "first timers" meeting for graduates and other potential new members.
5. Offer scholarships for workshops, conferences, and testing.