



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

**Jackie Emmart, M.S., NIC Advanced
Region I Representative**

Jackie first became acquainted with the Deaf community in 2001, when she took an ASL class at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. Her Deaf instructor, Jim Lipsky, instilled in her a passion for learning ASL and soon thereafter, Jackie changed her major to pursue interpreting. She began to immerse herself in the Deaf community by volunteering for Boston's DeafBlind Contact Center as a Support Service Provider. In 2004, Jackie began working under Executive Director, Sharon L. Applegate, as the Executive Assistant for DEAF, Inc., a multi-service non-profit organization serving Deaf, DeafBlind, Late-Deafened, and Hard of Hearing individuals in eastern Massachusetts.

In 2005, shortly after completing a B.S. in ASL-English Interpreting, she was hired to work as an Educational Interpreter for the Boston Arts Academy, a charter high school for the performing arts. Jackie worked with a talented team of eight interpreters before seizing an opportunity to work as the Program Assistant for the National Interpreter Education Center (NIEC). Under the direction of Dr. Betsy Winston, Jackie worked alongside the other four centers within the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC).

From 2006-2008, Jackie served her affiliate chapter, MassRID, as the Secretary on the Board of Directors, as well as the Layout Editor for the organization's newsletter, *The Communicator*, from 2006-2009. In 2008, Jackie coordinated a community retreat for MassRID with co-coordinator Alberto Sifuentes. In summer 2008, Jackie completed her M.S. in Leadership at Northeastern University. Since November 2008, she has been employed at Children's Hospital Boston as a staff interpreter.

Jackie has been fortunate to work with a number of mentors who have taken her under their wings. In doing so, she developed a passion for working with her fellow novice interpreters and she takes every opportunity to "pay it forward." Jackie recently co-taught "Introduction to Interpreting" at Northeastern University with Dr. Dennis Cokely. She also co-facilitated a week-long preparation course for the NIC, led by Dr. Cokely and Dr. Rico Peterson, with her colleagues Angela Herbert and Nicole Crossman.

Jackie now lives at the beach with her partner and two dogs in Winthrop, MA.