



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.



For immediate release
Contact: tschultz@rid.org

NAD and RID Report Recent Findings: NIC Tests Meet High Reliability Standards

August 28, 2008 – Alexandria, VA – The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), in conjunction with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), is pleased to report that, in a recent analysis of the reliability of the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Knowledge and Performance test, psychometric experts from CASTLE, Worldwide, reported that the exam adheres to nationally recognized testing industry standards of validity and reliability.

“RID and the NAD engaged in a lengthy effort to develop an interpreting instrument which would be considered cutting-edge in the field. This analysis provides valuable information that should instill confidence in both interpreters and consumers regarding the measure of the NIC,” stated Clay Nettles, Executive Director of RID.

“When NAD and RID first agreed to undertake development of an entirely new joint interpreting test, we knew then as we know today that we were going to be advancing the field of interpreting in an unprecedented way,” said Nancy J. Bloch, NAD Chief Executive Officer. “We are very pleased that the results of our collaborative efforts have brought forth such positive results.”

The NAD-RID National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Knowledge test was implemented in 2003 and the Interview and Performance tests debuted in 2005. Since becoming operative, thousands of interpreters have taken the tests. Recently, results of these tests were analyzed by the psychometric experts at CASTLE, Worldwide.

The examination has resulted in high reliability outcomes for each of the NIC components. In each of the tests, the threshold value of .8 indicates high reliability. Higher values indicate greater consistency among the ratings. The NIC Knowledge test had a reliability rate of .90, higher than the accepted standard. The NIC Performance test had an even higher reliability rating at .971. Finally, the NIC Interview test showed an impressive reliability rating of .985.

These results strongly indicate that the tests meet the high standards sought by NAD and RID in developing the exams.

-more-

NIC Standards/press release/August 28, 2008

As a result, consumers of interpreting services can be very confident that holders of the various levels of NIC certification (NIC, NIC Advanced or NIC Master), are interpreters who have demonstrated knowledge and skills that meet or exceed the professional standards required to perform in a broad range of interpretation and transliteration assignments. The NIC exam measures interpreting skills and knowledge in the following three critical domains:

1. general knowledge of the field of interpreting through the NIC Knowledge written exam;
2. ethical decision making through the interview portion of the NIC Performance exam; and
3. interpreting and transliterating skills through the performance portion of the NIC Performance exam.

NAD and RID will soon be appointing a new task force of subject matter experts to review all aspects of the tests. The subject matter experts will determine if any changes are needed in the testing process to make the testing and results reporting process more efficient.

The task force will review all questions on the NIC Knowledge test, remove or modify questions that are underperforming based on psychometric standards. Additionally, they will formulate additional questions in order to have an increased number of tests. In time, there will be a large enough pool of questions that will allow for many versions of the test since questions will be randomly drawn in specified amounts from the ten identified task areas.

The task force will also review the NIC Interview and Performance tests, make any needed revisions and develop additional versions of the tests. If you have any questions about the testing process or certification, please consult the RID Web site, located at www.rid.org or send inquiries to ntspa@rid.org.

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), a national membership organization representing professionals who facilitate communication between people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people who can hear, has played a leading role in establishing a national standard of quality for interpreters and transliterators. It is the mission of RID to provide international, national, regional, state and local forums and an organizational structure for the continued growth and development of the profession of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English. www.rid.org

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) was established in 1880 by deaf leaders who believed in the right of the American deaf community to use sign language, to congregate on issues important to them, and to have its interests represented at the national level. These beliefs remain true to this day, with American Sign Language as a core value. As a nonprofit federation, the mission of the NAD is to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human, and linguistic rights of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America. The advocacy scope of the NAD is broad, covering the breadth of a lifetime and impacting future generations in the areas of early intervention, education, employment, health care, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership, and more. For more information, please visit www.nad.org.