

CRID CONFERENCE

2024

Diamond Jubilee Presenters



RANDY THUESEN **M.S., NIC, BEI MASTER**

RANDY THUESEN, a Texas native and certified interpreter, has been involved with the Deaf and Deaf Blind communities since he was a young boy, and enjoys giving back to them. For the past 20 years, Randy has enjoyed interpreting in mental health, educational, medical, legal, and conference settings, but his heart lies with teaching. He started teaching interpreting in the Houston area in 2006 and currently serves as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies at the University of Northern Colorado. Greeley, Colorado is home for Randy, his wife Ramichelle, and their 2 dogs.

Randy is an alumnus of the University of North Florida's Interpreter Pedagogy program. He formerly served as Co-Chair of the Interpreter Educator Special Interest Group for the Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf (TSID). His techniques give working interpreters and students the tools to make interpreting a sustainable and long-term career.

Randy will be presenting for the Education track all day on Saturday and will also give us a chance to take a "Deep Dive into the BEI" testing process on Sunday morning.

JORDANA AVITAL **NIC**

JORDANA AVITAL is a full-time freelance interpreter working in the Denver metro area. Jordana received her B.S. in linguistics from the University of Southern Maine and her M.A. in interpreting from St. Catherine University. Her thesis on interpreting in mental health and addiction recovery support groups was the first of its kind and is still a topic she is exploring.

Currently she teaches interpreters at the Community College of Aurora as well as through her non-profit work. When not training and interpreter she can be found playing for Denver Roller Derby or cuddling her pets.

Jordana will be presenting Saturday on the topic, "Cultural Competencies in Communication" (PPO).



CRID CONFERENCE 2024 *Diamond Jubilee* Presenters



RUTHIE JORDAN

RUTHIE JORDAN is an ASL heritage signer who has earned several degrees and certificates from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology (NTID/RIT) and a Master of Arts in Sign Language Education (MASLED) from Gallaudet University. She enjoys sharing her knowledge, passion and skills as an advocate, artist, ASL Literature specialist, ASL educator, educator, filmmaker, and performer. She values the community and looks forward to growing together.

She enjoys outdoor activities with her family, Deaf dog (Rupert), and friends during her spare time.

She will be co-presenting Explore the Language of the Mechanical World and the Science Lab Advanced CL usage with English production on Saturday afternoon.

DAVID PLONSKI

DAVID PLONSKI is Deaf and a native ASL user. He earned an associate degree from Santa Fe Community College in Environmental and Sustainable Technologies with a certificate in water treatment operation.

In his spare time, he is a shade tree mechanic with bicycles, motorcycles, and automobiles. He cares about the environment and enjoys spending time outdoors with family and friends.

He will be co-presenting Explore the Language of the Mechanical World and the Science Lab Advanced CL usage with English production on Saturday afternoon.



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Haley will be bringing an interactive exploration of the field in her workshop “Cache Me If You Can” on Sunday morning.

JAY FLANERY NIC, AU:K12

JAY FLANERY is a white, Queer, neurodiverse, ASL and English Interpreter who grew up in Colorado. They graduated with their bachelor’s degree in ASL Interpreting from William Woods University and is also an alumnus of the Pikes Peak State College Interpreting Preparation Program.

Jay has held a staff interpreter position at WellPower, Denver’s community based mental health center. Jay has also coordinated for Denver and Colorado Springs Pride events.

Jay would be remiss to exclude his unique experience of being heavily involved with the Deaf-Queer community of the Front Range. Their stories continue to inform and shape Jay’s best practices when working with Deaf-Queer folks.

Jay will be bringing his experiences to conference to share in his workshop, “Quirks of the Queer Community (PPO)” on Sunday morning.

HALEY HEGEMAN

HALEY HEGEMAN has been interpreting in both community and post-secondary education for eight years. She graduated from Florida College in 2009 with her BA in Music and then graduated with her AAS in Interpreting from Pikes Peak State College in 2016. She is currently serving as President for Colorado RID, has been the CRID Treasurer for the last six years, and has been heavily involved in the last five CRID conference planning teams. She was a mentee in the inaugural cycle of CORE Colorado in 2019 and fell in love with powerful and positive mentoring for those in “the gap”. She now serves as a co-coordinator of CORE Colorado.

When she is not doing things related to interpreting, you can find her behind a camera lens, playing percussion with the local community band, tending to her mini-indoor jungle, being the honorary aunt that feeds the kids sugar and gives them back, or hanging out with an alpaca or two.

