

Workshop for Parents of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children and the Deaf Community

***Making Parents and Deaf Community Connections with
MSD***

The aim of this community-based inter-cultural communication workshop is to empower parents whose children are enrolled at MSD and Deaf community members to realize the salient features of their own culture and to learn to communicate with people respecting the linguistic differences and making the best possible use of them.

Thursday, February 19, 2009

7-9 PM

Michigan School for the Deaf

Thelma Heck Service Building

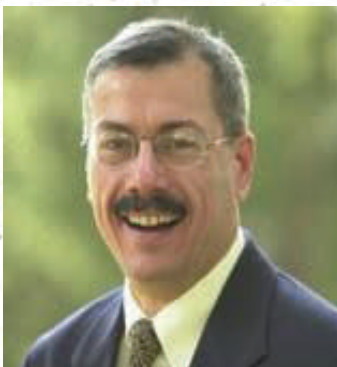
1667 Miller Road

Flint, Michigan 48503

There has been a growing body of research evidence suggesting that there are important benefits to be gained by Deaf and hard of hearing children when their parents and members of the Deaf community provide support, encouragement and direct instruction in the home/community, as well as maintain good communication with the school -- activities which are known as "parent [and community] involvement." Such findings have led researchers and school personnel to apply a community-based inter-cultural communication component of a bilingual school which involves parents in the decision-making process concerning their children's education and has effected a language and cultural exchange between the ASL-using and English-speaking communities.

Objectives of Workshop: Those attending the workshop will have:

- 1) a basic cultural awareness and understanding of the impact of cultural & linguistic differences;
- 2) the necessary foundation and tools to become culturally & linguistic competent/proficient;
- 3) a better understanding of the literacy challenges facing MSD;
- 4) an opportunity to enhance cultural sensitivity and linguistic competence/proficiency; and
- 5) practical tools to reduce cross-cultural misunderstanding and encourage positive cross-cultural working relationship.



Workshop Presenter: Eddy F. Laird, formerly superintendent of the Indiana Deaf School, teaches ASL/English bilingualism at McDaniel College where he also coordinates the ASL Specialist program. He has a doctorate degree in Deaf Studies/Deaf Education from Lamar University and is noted for his expertise in and advocacy for the use of the American Sign Language (ASLPI). A graduate of Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and Gallaudet University, Dr. Laird holds two Master's degrees: Special Education from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Educational Administration & Supervision from California State University, Northridge.

Workshop is sponsored by Michigan School for the Deaf.

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