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**CEU Information: Michigan Chapter ASLTA Workshop Investigative Outline for
*Deaf Native American Culture, Sign Language & Interpreting***

Two-Day Adult Community Sponsored Workshop Series:

Four targeted circles of participants:

- 1. First Nation People from the local Michigan Deaf Community.** Rediscovering and Reconnecting: We would like to extend an invitation to the Metro-Detroit Deaf Community residents with Native American Heritage. This group includes many adults who did NOT have access to friends, relatives and Indigenous Community opportunities and were unable to assimilate their own Native Heritage, Language and Culture.
- 2. Hearing Native Tribal members,** from various councils interested in learning how to widen existing circles to include Deaf members. What modifications are needed to “Step into the Circle” to enrich ceremony?
- 3. Sign Language Interpreters** (both professional level and student level) interested in the historical perspective of indigenous signs and their influence on modern day American Sign Language. (QA and RID units would be available.)
- 4. Hearing citizens** interested in learning about a rich and fascinating way of living and communicating.

CEU Participant OBJECTIVES:

Linguistic and Cultural Studies:

1. Explore the concept of *historical trauma*. Compare and contrast common elements experienced by the Deaf and Native American Communities.
2. Investigate minority group dynamics and how language defines “self” and “community.”

Theoretical and Experiential Studies:

3. Analyze Native Sign Language semantics, syntax, and grammar.
4. Compare and contrast linguistic information in English, ASL and Native Sign Language (i.e. concepts and phrases)

Specialization Studies:

5. Describe communication access strategies that enable Deaf Native People to participate in activities and ceremonies.
6. Differentiate interpreting skill sets unique to Indigenous gatherings (i.e. ceremonies, talking circles, PowWows etc...)
7. Identify tribes in Michigan and state and federal agency providers.

Investigative Questions:

1. Identify attributes of tribal communication and circumstances when signs were used to facilitate inter-tribal communication.
2. How does sign language create a sense of common understanding and community? When is it used for such things as: tracking and storytelling? How is sign incorporated in dance, how does it facilitate communication during Pow-wow and how is it used in ceremonies?
3. Who learned signs in the tribal system? How were interpreters selected in any tribe? How is the language handed-down and kept alive?
4. What was the status of Deaf tribal members? What attitudes did the community hold about children and adults with special needs? Did certain tribes have greater use for signs than others?
5. What is the current mandate for the Intertribal Deaf Council? When did the name change to Sacred Circle?
6. How can Deaf Americans with Native heritage connect with their indigenous roots?
7. Where are the tribal lands in Michigan and how can Deaf Native Americans access services?
8. Identify and discuss admired attributes of Deaf Native American heroes and relay samples of cultural stories.
9. How is current-day American Sign Language used along side of Native American Signs to compare and contrast traditional root signs expressed in signs used today. (Comparative linguistics)