



M. Leslie Knowles, M.Ed., NAD-III, RID CT, RID CI

Leslie is hearing (with no Deaf family) and began her journey in ASL and Deaf culture in undergraduate school. She took her first sign language course, Manual Communication, in college to satisfy the required Humanities elective. She took ASL II and has been involved in the culture and language ever since.

Her work as an educator began in 1994 when she started teaching at Delgado Community College in New Orleans, LA. As Professor of the ASL Interpreting Program, she serves as the ASL Director/Advisor, and teaches all levels of ASL, Deaf culture, and interpreting courses. She holds an M.Ed. in Deaf Education from the University of New Orleans; a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, and a Certificate of Achievement in Interpreter Training from John A Logan Community College in Carterville, IL.

Leslie is a nationally certified interpreter and works as an interpreter in private practice. She holds a Superior on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) from the Louisiana School for the Deaf (LSD). Interpreting credentials include Level III from the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), and a Certificate of Transliteration (CT) and Certificate of Interpretation (CI) from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). Along with being an interpreter, Leslie presents on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, national knowledge exam preparation, theatrical interpreting, and ASL skills building.

Her professional affiliations include memberships with National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Louisiana Association of the Deaf (LAD). Her past committee work involved serving as Vice-Chair of Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD) Interpreter Certification Board and most recently serving on the LCD Ad Hoc Committee to develop standards for interpreters working in Louisiana educational and community settings. For LRID, she has held most every office. Currently she works as Co-Chair of LRID's Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) Committee and is the 2023-2025 President.

Leslie wants to thank Janie Powell for instilling in her the importance of professionalism and respect for the work and communities.