



Resolution 14.5.2: Baccalaureate Degrees (American Sign Language (ASL) - English Interpretation:

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1st Reading: May 5, 2014

Mover: Velez

Second: Gonzales

WHEREAS, SB 850 authored by state Sen. Marty Block, D-San Diego, and co-authored by state Sen. Joel Anderson, R-San Diego, SB 850 would allow a number of community colleges in the state to offer Bachelor's degrees in specific majors with a high local workforce demand and this California Senate Bill is supported by our Chancellor, Dr. Constance Carroll; the ASL Studies and ASL-English Interpretation Department would like to propose offering baccalaureate degree in ASL-English Interpretation;

WHEREAS, according to January 8, 2014, Bureau of Labor Statistics, job outlook for interpreters and transliterators is projected to grow 46 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations; demand for American Sign Language-English interpreters is expected to grow rapidly, driven by the increasing use of video relay services, which allow people to conduct online video calls and use a sign language interpreter, Source: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Media-and-Communication/Interpreters-and-transliterators.htm#tab-6>;

WHEREAS, according to January 8, 2014, Bureau of Labor Statistics, job prospects should be best for those who have at least a Bachelor's degree and for those who have professional certification; those with a Master's degree in interpreting and/or translation should also have an advantage; in addition, urban areas—especially Washington DC, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles—should continue to provide the largest numbers of jobs, especially for interpreters, Source: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Media-and-Communication/Interpreters-and-transliterators.htm#tab-6>;

WHEREAS, according to January 8, 2014, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations; the [National Association of the Deaf](#) and the [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#) jointly offer certification for general sign language interpreters; In addition, the registry offers specialty tests in legal interpreting, speech reading, and Deaf-to-Deaf interpreting—which includes interpreting among Deaf speakers with different native languages and from ASL to tactile signing, Source: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Media-and-Communication/Interpreters-and-transliterators.htm#tab-4>;

WHEREAS, according to Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Educational Requirement Changes on July 1, 2012, at the 2003 RID National Conference, in Chicago, IL, the membership passed motion C2003.05, establishing Bachelor's degree requirements for RID certification candidates, Source: <http://www.rid.org/education/overview/index.cfm/AID/195>;

WHEREAS, according to Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, as of July 1, 2012: Hearing exam candidates must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree recorded in their RID account [before testing for any RID performance-based exam](#); this applies to all Hearing exam candidates, including those who already hold RID certification, Source: <http://www.rid.org/education/overview/index.cfm/AID/195>; and

WHEREAS, according to Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, currently Deaf exam candidates must have a minimum of an associate degree recorded in their RID account before testing for any RID performance-based exam; however, by July 1, 2016 they must have a Bachelor's degree; this new requirement will apply to all Deaf exam candidates, including those who already hold RID certification, Source: <http://www.rid.org/education/overview/index.cfm/AID/195>;

WHEREAS, the field of ASL-English Interpretation has continued to evolve since 1800s and with the establishment of the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education (CCIE) in 2006 to promote professionalism in the field of sign language interpreter education through the process of accreditation; in 2008, CCIE became a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA); as a result there is an increasing need to raise the standards to produce highly qualified ASL-English Interpreters; currently there are fourteen accredited ASL-English Interpretation programs in the United States of America, Source: <http://www.cit-asl.org/ccie.html> and <http://udini.proquest.com/view/the-history-of-american-sign-goid:304722478/> ;

WHEREAS, ASL Studies/ASL-English Interpretation department at San Diego Mesa College currently offers two (2) Associate of Arts (AA) degrees and Certificate of Achievements in: American Sign Language Studies and American Sign Language-English Interpretation; our department believes that moving the second A.A. degree in ASL-English Interpretation to the Bachelor's level will accomplish RID's requirements for interpreters sitting for national certification, Source: <http://www.sdmesa.edu/students/academic-programs/amsl/degrees/>;

WHEREAS, currently a Bachelor's degree in ASL-English Interpretation is not offered in California; for the ASL-English Interpretation program at San Diego Mesa College the ability to provide this higher level degree would enable students meet the requirements for RID certification; higher level degrees are expected by employers to ensure that graduates are competent for entry-level employment locally and nationally;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate endorse the planning and implementation of a Bachelor's degree program in American Sign Language-English Interpretation.

Presented to the Academic Senate: May 5, 2014

Approved by the Academic Senate: May 5, 2014