

Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies

<https://www.unco.edu/cebs/asl-interpreting/>

UNC Board of Trustees

February 10, 2023

UNC

ASLIS Department Overview

Tuition driven academic programs

- ▶ American Sign Language On Campus & Online
 - ▶ LACs
 - ▶ ASL for Professionals I & II
 - ▶ ASL Minor
- ▶ ASL-English Interpretation BA On Campus & Online
- ▶ Teaching ASL MA - Hybrid
- ▶ Teaching ASL MA World Language Licensure for K12 - Hybrid

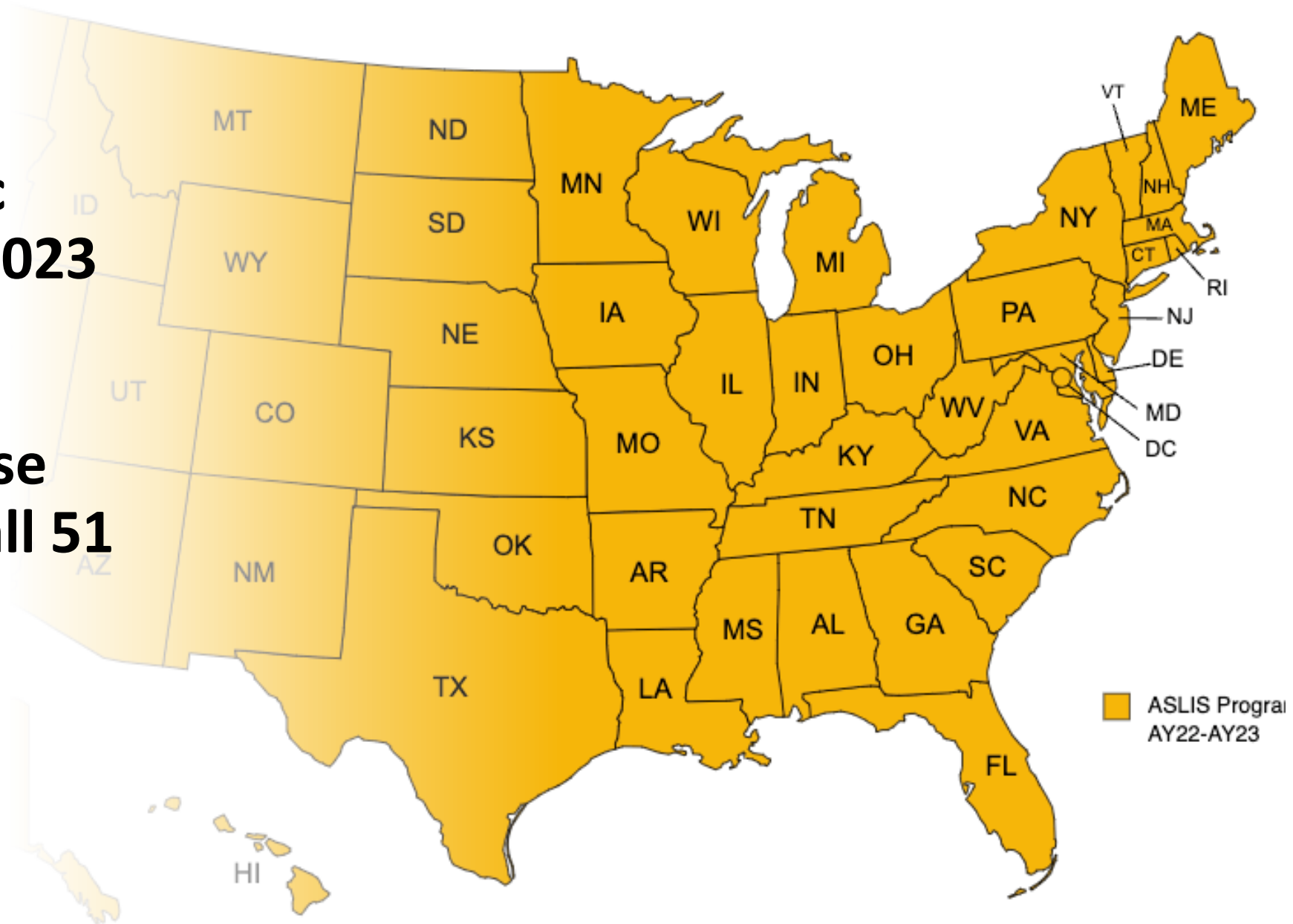
Externally funded academic projects

- ▶ Preparing School Interpreters (PSI)
 - ▶ Scholarships
 - ▶ Improving services for K12 students
- ▶ Cultivating Legal Interpreters from Minority Backgrounds (CLIMB)
- ▶ Improving Rural Interpreter Skills (IRIS)
- ▶ Colorado Rural Interpreting Skills Enhancement (RISE)

*Barbara Garrett, PhD, CI & CT
Professor & Chair*

*Leilani Johnson, EdD, CI
Director Emerita and PI ²*

**During Academic
Years 2022 and 2023
ASLIS served
students and
learners of diverse
backgrounds in all 51
states/districts.**





ASLIS BA & MA Students
Summer 2022

American Sign Language Undergraduate Program

- ASL Liberal Arts Core
- ASL for Professionals I & II
- ASL Minor

Pauline Ballentine, CDI

Senior Lecturer & Programs Manager

“Unity” by Deaf Artist
Nancy Rourke





Teaching ASL MA Program

- Teaching ASL MA
- Teaching ASL MA with Licensure (K12)

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ASL English Interpretation BA Program

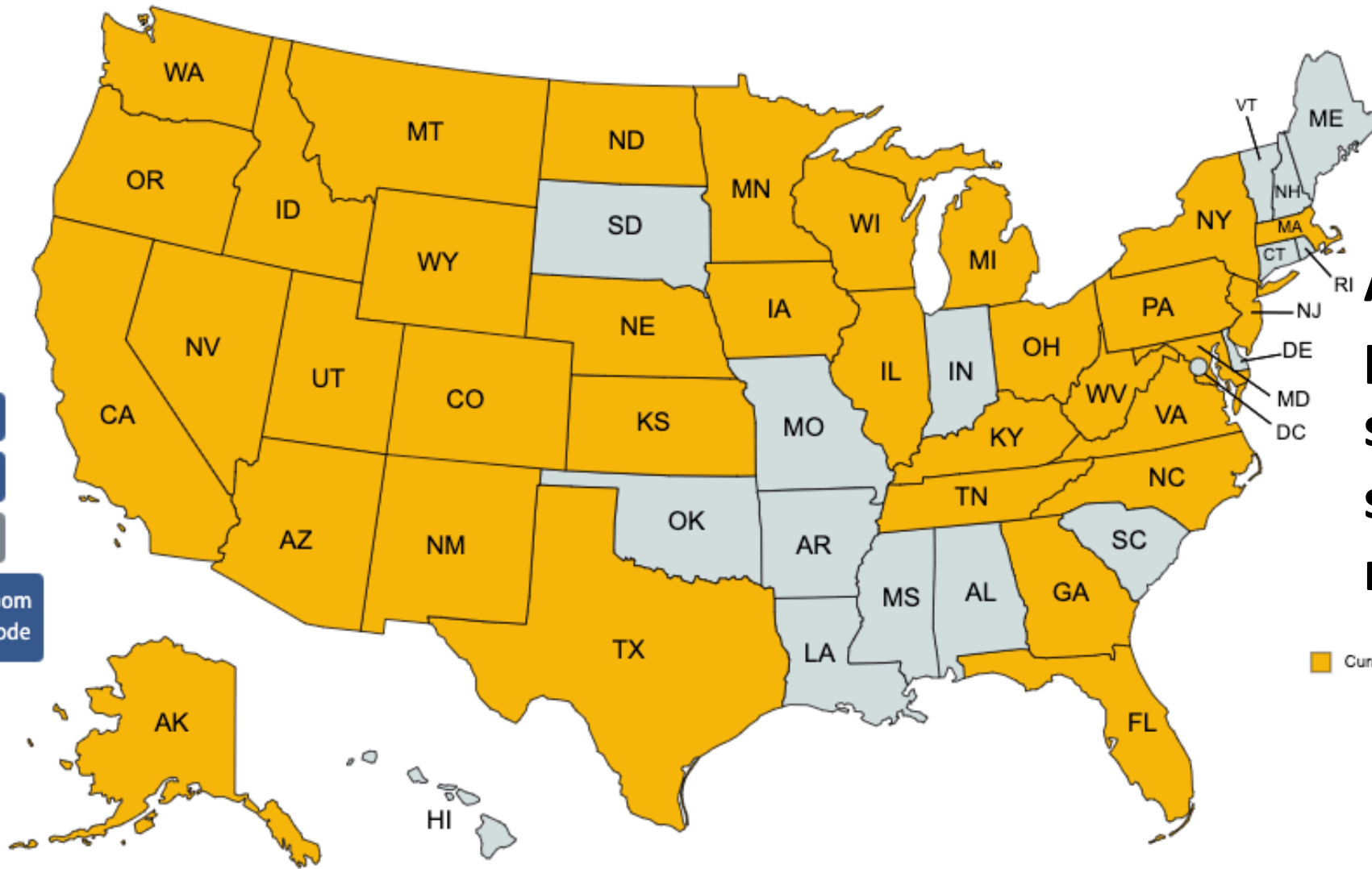
- Delivered On Campus & Online
- Fully accredited by CCIE
- Reputation for preparing leaders
- Preparing both K-12 school and community interpreters
- Known for research, cutting edge use of instructional design and technology

Barbara Garrett, PhD, CI & CT
Professor & Chair

“Unity” by Deaf Artist
Nancy Rourke



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ASLIS degree programs serve students in 32 states across the nation in AY23

■ Current ASLIS Students

PSI Project

*Preparing
School Interpreters*

*Emily Girardin, ABD, Ed:K12
PSI Co-Director*

*Leilani Johnson, EdD, CI
Director Emerita and PSI Co-Director*



UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

US. Department of Education, OSEP Personnel Preparation Grant: H325K210024



PSI Overview

- ▶ \$1.25M award 2021-2026
- ▶ Revise ASLEI curriculum
- ▶ Increase national internship sites
- ▶ Deliver BA – on campus & online
- ▶ Design induction-mentorship experience
- ▶ Support program-to-practice activities

PSI Work to Date

- ▶ \$105,000 revise ASLEI BA curriculum
- ▶ Develop partnerships
- ▶ Develop internship sites
- ▶ \$25,000 scholarships to 27 UG students
- ▶ Fund/support graduation-to-practice transition activities
- ▶ National dissemination to field





*Roschawn Hardesty, MA, CI & CT, NIC-A, SC:L
Co-Director*

*Leilani Johnson, EdD, CI
Director Emerita and PI*

*Kelly Decker, NIC-A
Instructional Coordinator*

UNC-Project CLIMB | 2016-2021

Cultivating Legal Interpreters from Minority Backgrounds

US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration H160D-160001

Why Project CLIMB?

Increase the number and quality of interpreters of color and from heritage signing backgrounds working in legal settings.

unco.edu/project-climb



LINK: <https://youtu.be/Ueal-JrxQYE>

Project CLIMB Vision

Create intentional spaces that acknowledge the *experiences* that each individual brings to the conversation and the work of interpreting.

Diverse linguistic and cultural models

Connections to resources

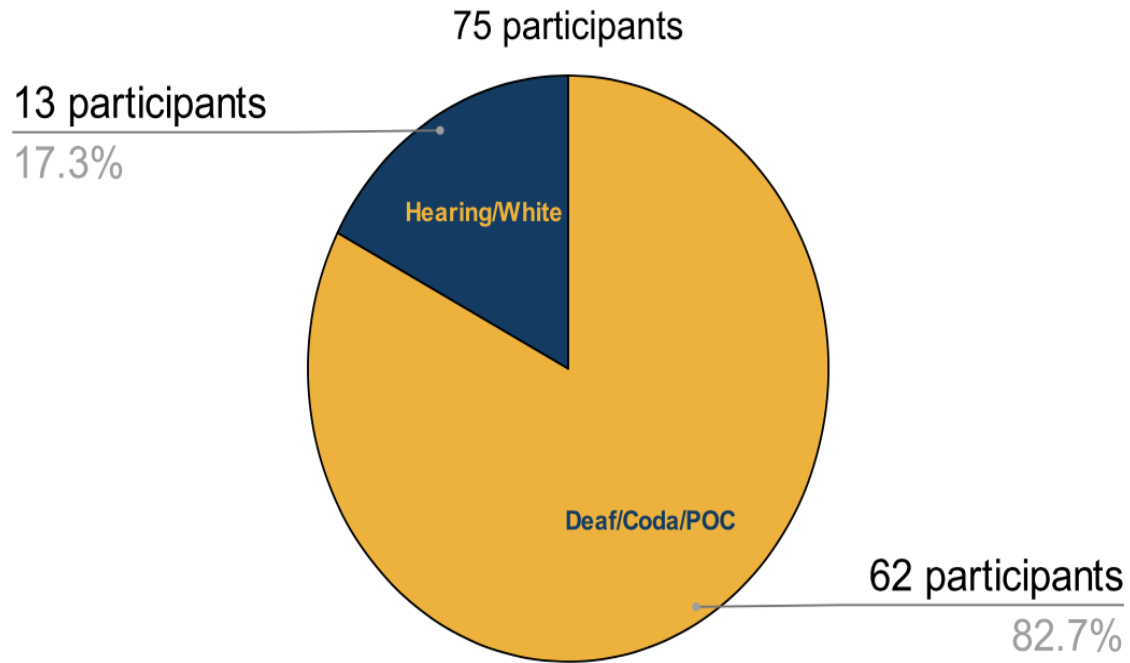
Mentors/faculty of color and heritage language

Access to a critical mass



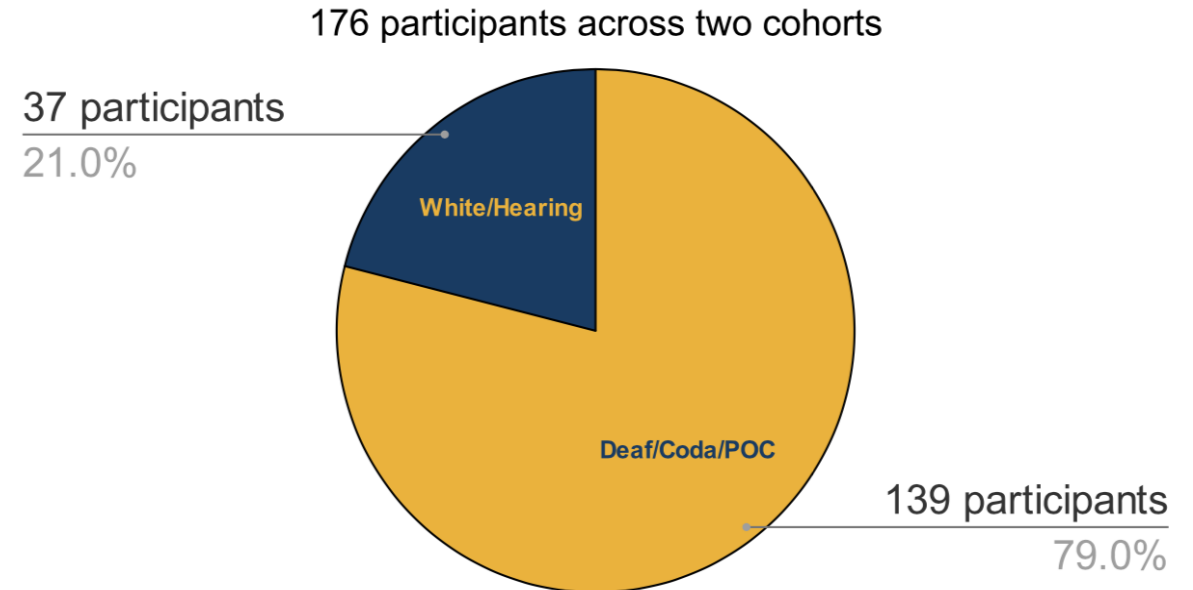
Color ASL by Deaf Artist
Nancy Rourke

Project CLIMB Outcomes



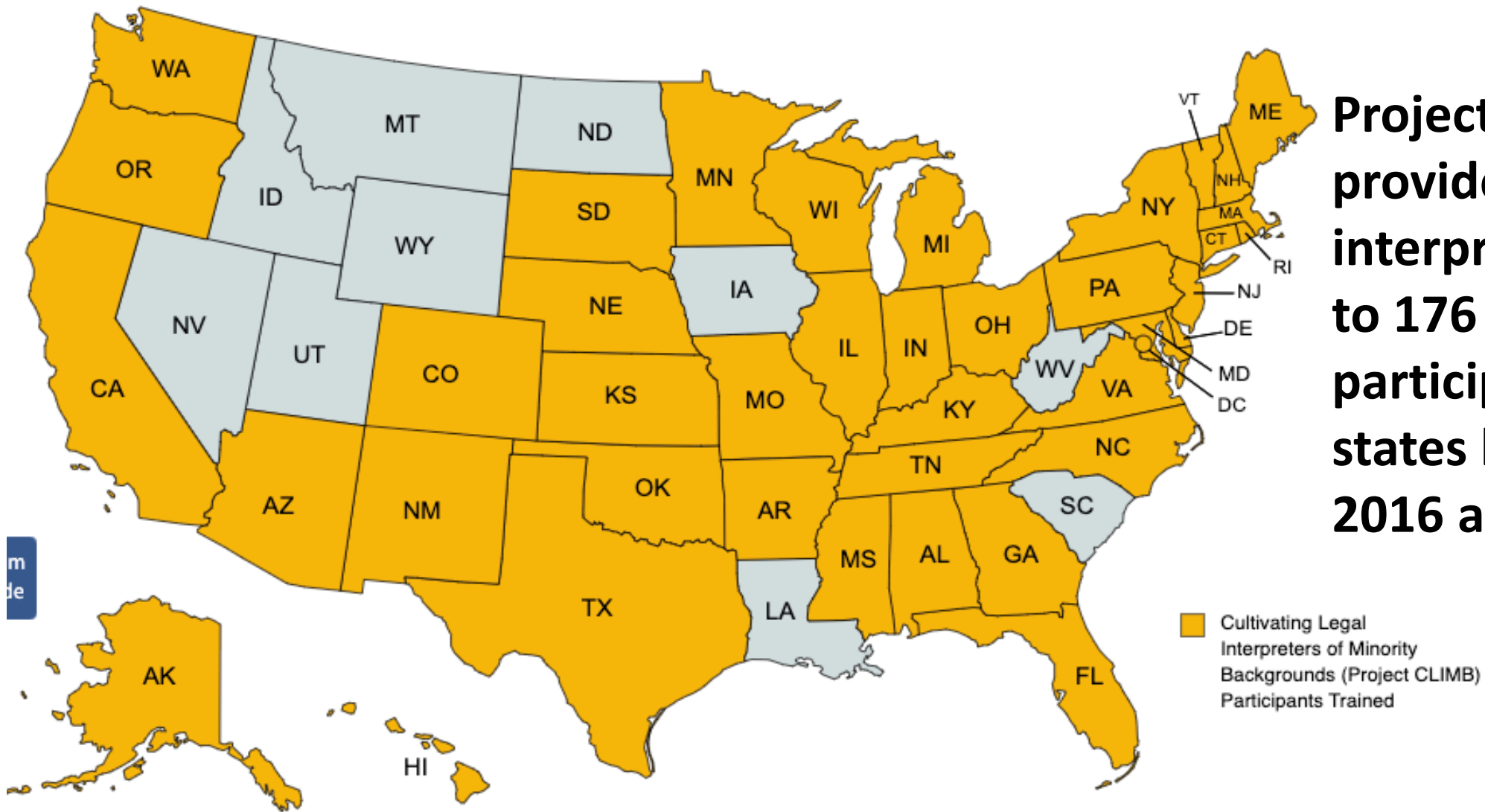
Of the 75 participants from the **Mentor Training Program**, 62 participants (82.7%) were Project CLIMB's target audience of Deaf, Coda, or people of color.

Mentor Training



Of the 176 participants from the **Legal Interpreter Training (LIT)**, 139 participants (79%) were Project CLIMB's target audience of Deaf, Coda, or people of color.

Legal interpreter Training



**Project CLIMB
provided legal
interpreter training
to 176 diverse
participants in 41
states between
2016 and 2022**



June 2022

**UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO**



Improving Rural Interpreter Skills

*Roschawn Hardesty, MA, CI & CT, NIC-A, SC:L
Co-Director*

*Kelly Decker, NIC-A
Instructional Coordinator*

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Director Emerita, Co-Director*

Improving Rural Interpreter Skills



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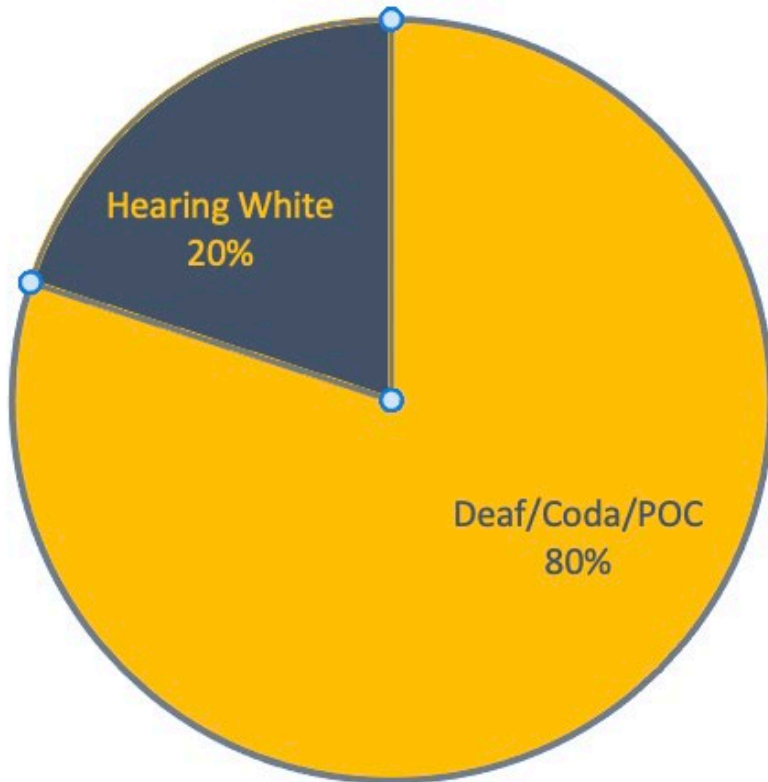


Vision

Increase the quantity and quality of interpreters working and living in rural settings by cultivating educational opportunities and sustainable connections that support professional growth.

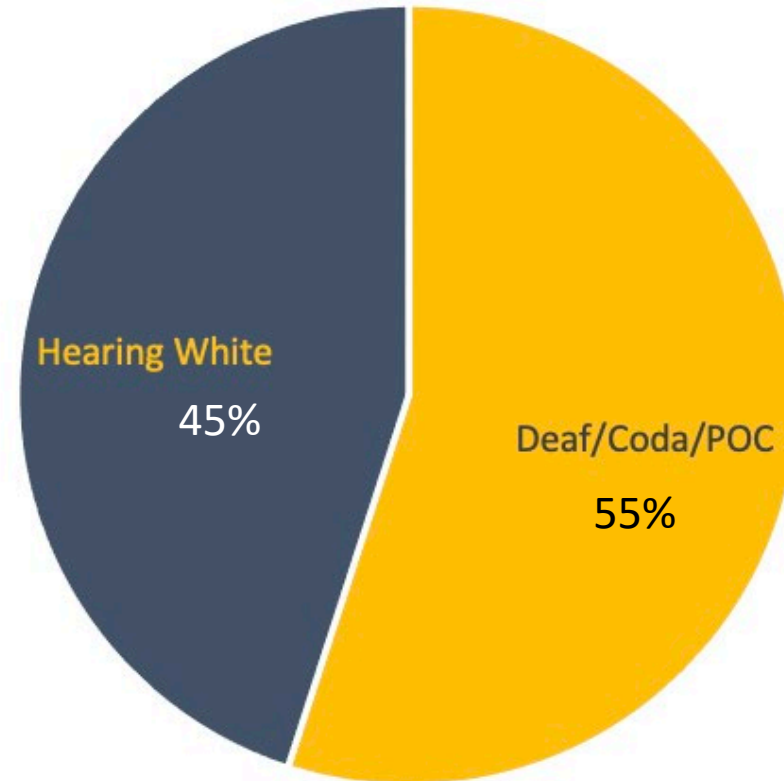
2022-2023 IRIS Project Outcomes

15 participants

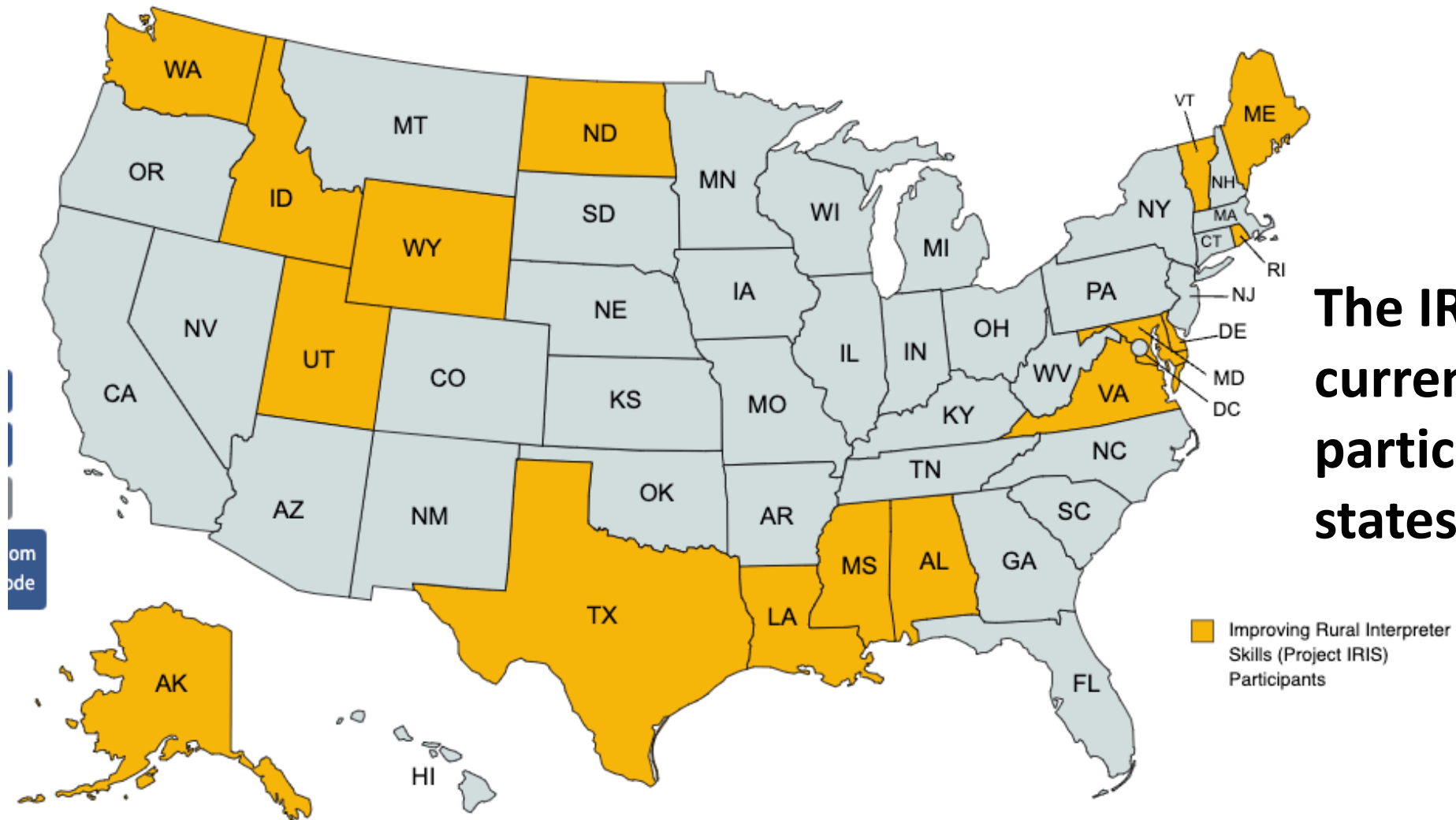


Mentor Training

21 participants



Rural interpreter Training



The IRIS Project is currently serving participants in 16 states

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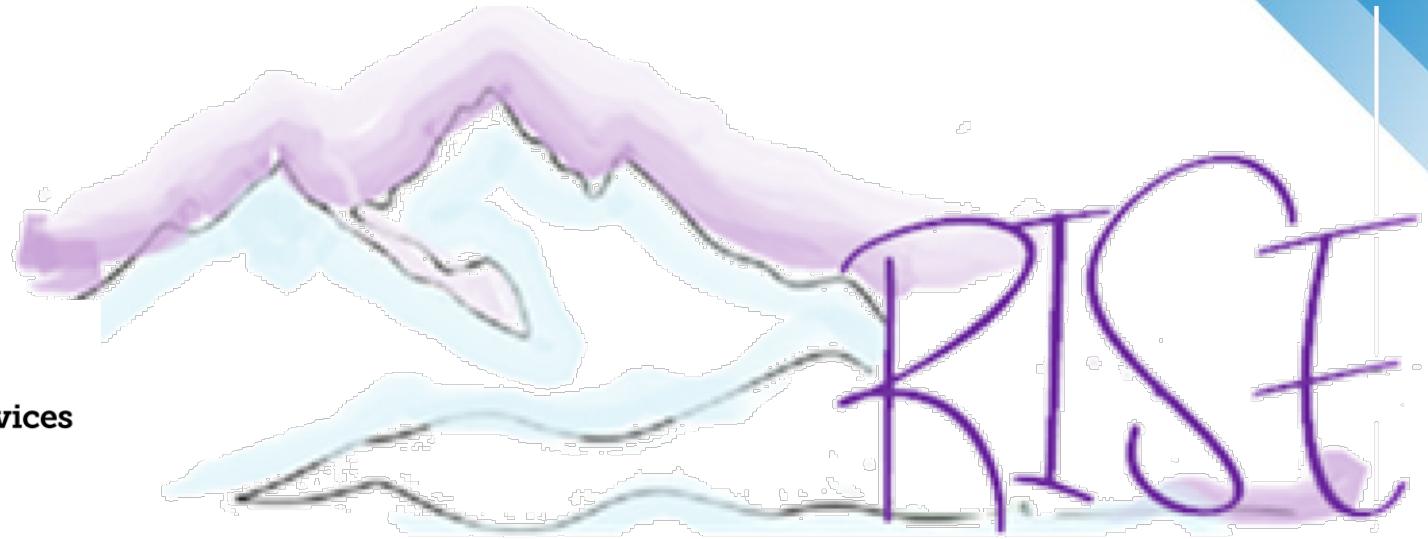
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COLORADO

Department of Human Services

Colorado Commission for the Deaf,
Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind



Rural Interpreter Skills Enhancement Project

Susan Brown, MA, Ed:K12

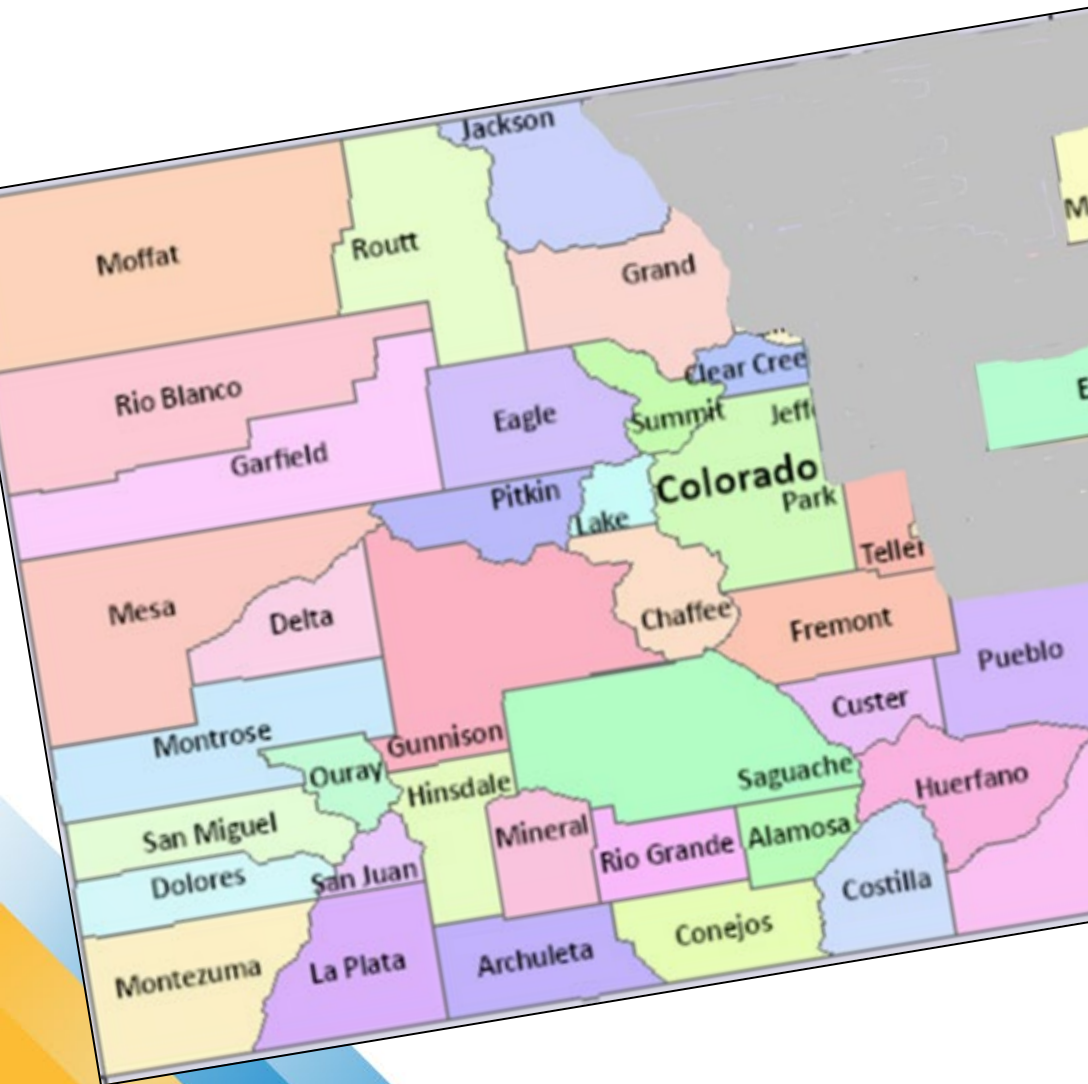
RISE Project Director

Barbara Garrett, PhD, CI & CT

Professor & Chair

RISE PI

UNC



- Three quarters of the Deaf and hard of hearing population in the state of Colorado do not have access to qualified interpreters in their local areas.
- 2019-2022 (Cohort I) \$200,000 of funding allotted to development and implementation of one-year online interpreter training and 40 hours of an apprenticeship. 20 non-certified interpreters were selected for this training, and 3 UNC ASLEI students from Colorado were each awarded \$24,000 scholarships.
- 2022-2024 (Cohort II) \$100,000 funding and 12 non-certified interpreters selected.
- Outcomes from the 1st Cohort provided noteworthy research and data that resulted, in part, to the Commission receiving ongoing funding to continue with their objectives.

DEMOGRAPHICS

STUDENTS

- 25% from underrepresented minorities (African-American, Hispanic, and Native American)
- 90% identify as female
- Age-range: 30-45
- Wide range of educational backgrounds & interpreting experiences
- Living and serving underrepresented rural communities



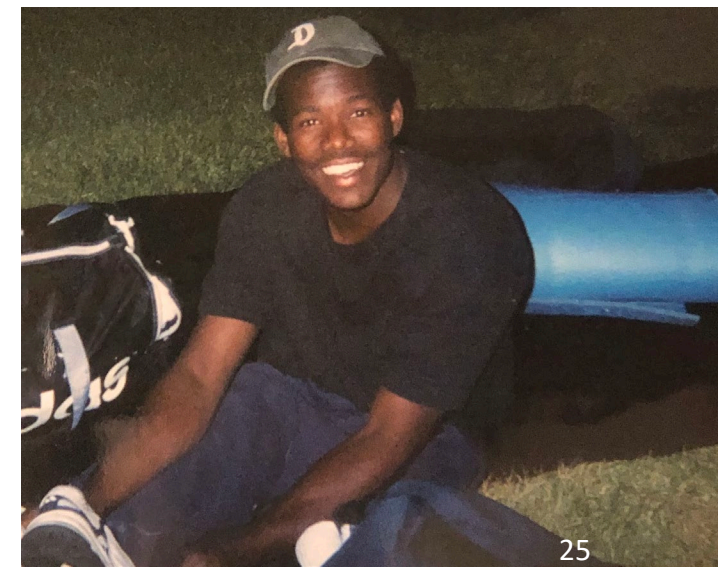
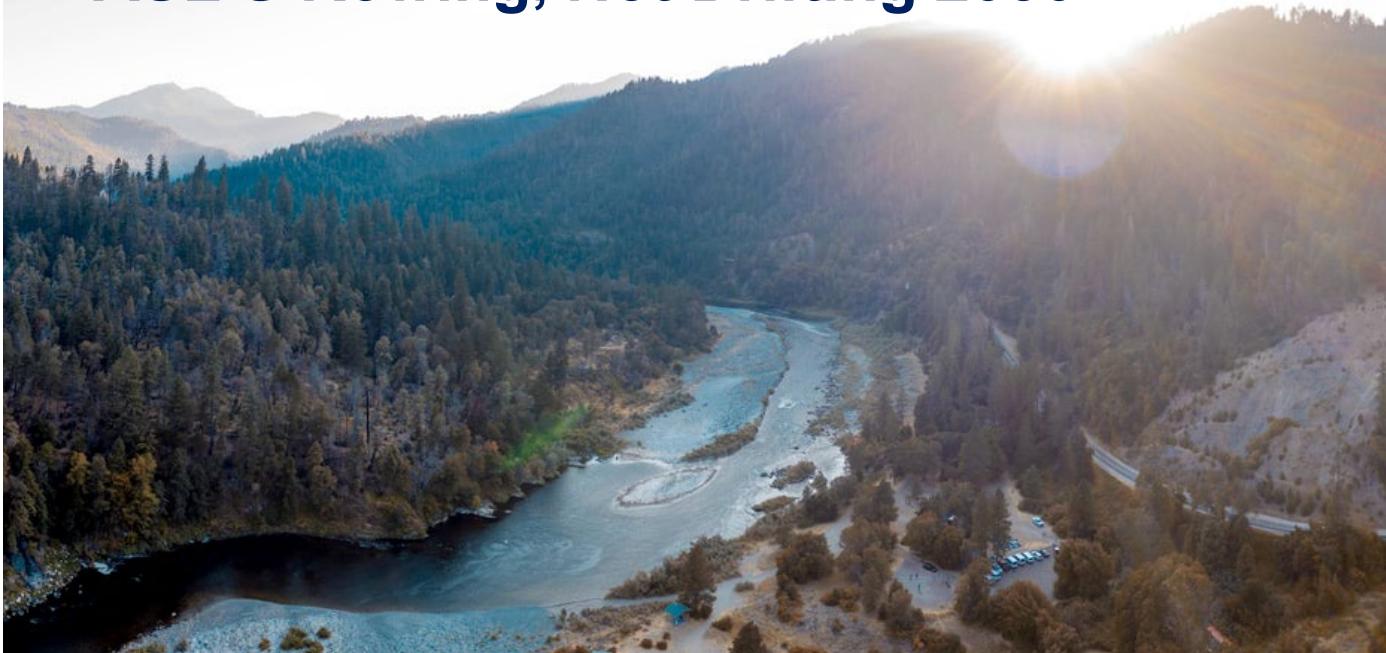
FACULTY and MENTORS

- Selected for strengths, cultural diversity, and experiences
- Deaf and hearing instructors & mentors
- CCDHHDB mentors all highly certified: most also holding legal certification

RISE Outcomes to Date

- 22% (5 students) have achieved a state recognized interpreter certification since the training concluded
- 26% (6 students) are scheduled to sit for certification by the end of June 2023
- 52% (12 students) completed the training but for various reasons have currently deferred sitting for certification.

ASLIS Rowing, Not Drifting 2030



ASLIS Rowing Not Drifting 2030

- ▶ Largest Online ASL Program in the Nation
- ▶ Add technology to offer hyflex instruction to increase partnerships and enrollment in the ASL English Interpretation BA
- ▶ Develop 4+1 MA program in Leadership/Supervision for Interpreters
- ▶ Investigate Trilingual Interpreter Preparation
- ▶ Promote ASL Minor with Other Majors

"Diversity in all its forms is the path to greatness."

—James D Wilson

