

Leslie Janda Decker

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Professional Summary

At the University of Arizona, I have been working as a full-time professor for 14 years teaching ASL, Deaf Studies and Interpreting courses. I mentor 2-4 students in the Deaf Studies and the Interpreting programs at the University of Arizona every year. I also taught American Sign Language courses at the Pima Community College for 7 years. Through my teaching and mentoring experience at PCC and UA, I develop keen knowledge in teaching and mentoring: motivating students using various methods, conveying my profound and wide-ranging content knowledge, promote student's development and set up an environment where students will prevail.

Since May 2016, I have been providing interpreting services by teaming with Hearing Interpreters in various sites and settings. Also, I do translations of 3rd grade to high school level exams for a several states as well as other translations services.

As an Interpreter Educator Specialist in the Interpreter Education Professional Development program at Sorenson Communications, I provided a variety of professional development trainings/mentoring to current interpreting students and certified/licensed interpreters from October 2016 to July 2023. I was a former team member developing the Deaf Interpreter Academy curriculum working in small groups of BIPOC Deaf and Deaf participants to establish a safe and shared space to unpack diverse cultural layers of identity with BIPOC, Deaf and Hearing experienced mentors.

Last few years, I attended a good number of conferences. They were Conference of Interpreter Trainers, American Sign Language Teacher Association, Deaf Interpreter Conference, Deaf Interpreter workshop hosted by Sharp Eyed group, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and lastly, Street Leverage conferences at Tucson, Minnesota, and San Francisco. For some of the conferences, I were fortunately to be attend more than once. I also went to four VRS Interpreting Institute at Sorenson's workshops. The personal professional growth I had from attending workshops is priceless. It is not only because of what I learned in the workshops but also from wonderful people I met at conferences. I was able to build a network where we could share information and learn from each other. It is one reason why I believe that mentoring program is very important.

I have been a member of Conference Interpreter Trainers for 9 years and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf for 8 years. I just become a member of American Sign Language Teachers Association and I got Master Certificated of ASLTA in 2022. In additional, I am the Certified Deaf Interpreter in December 2022. Recently, I am appointed to be a board of National Deaf Interpreter. I also applied and got accepted one of 35 working Deaf Translators to attend at National Deaf Translators Summit in March 2023. I took some legal interpreting trainings and I just completed 50 hours of training to receive Arizona Legal D license. I believe I will receive Legal D license within this summer.

I always find joy teaching and mentoring students at UA and PCC. After many years of teaching experience and conferences, I have a solid and deep knowledge in ASL, Deaf Studies, and Interpreting field. I've received an Educator of the Year for Deaf Studies Majors award from UA. I am a people person who enjoy and work very well with people.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me via email, ldecker@email.arizona.edu or call, 520-447-1877. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie Janda Decker

Skills

- Certificated Deaf Interpreter
- Passed Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) ASL Proficiency exam
- Passed American Sign Language Proficiency Interview Level 4+
- Master Certificated America Sign Language TA

Experience

Senior Lecturer

August 2010 - Present

University of Arizona -Tucson, AZ

American Sign Language and Deaf Studies instructor, teach ASL (Level 1-6), Deaf Studies courses and co-teaching with another full-time instructor who teach Interpreter Training Program. I developed lesson plans, activities, quizzes and also facilitate active learning during the class. I usually have 25-45 college students in the class per semester. I am currently teaching 3 courses this semester.

Interpreter Education Specialist.

October 2016 – July 2023

Sorenson Communications Company – Salt Lake City, UT

As a specialist, I work at home mostly of time through virtual technique and I usually have 5-30 participants daily. To improve their language skill as well as increase some knowledge about deaf culture better. Also, I give them some guide at how to interpreting and medicating with deaf clients through the phone calls. To rating their interpreting skill at different levels. To have some group mentoring with learning mentees and certificated video interpreters where they can earn continuing education unit for their licenses and certifications.

Sign Language Adjunct Faculty *August 2005 - May 2016*
Pima Community College - Tucson, AZ

As an American Sign Language instructor, teach ASL (Level 1-4) and I also developed lesson plans, quizzes and activities using PCC's ASL curriculum as a guideline and also facilitate active learning during the class. I usually have 12-25 college students in the class per semester. I just finished the class last spring semester.

Housewife *August 2004 - May 2005*
Head of Decker's Household - Tucson, AZ

As a mother of three little children, I stayed home to take care of our children and house when my husband was promoted at Arizona School for the deaf and blind as a High School principal.
Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind Tucson, AZ

Master Teaching Parent, Aug 1999 - May 2004

As a Master Teaching parent, I was in charge of High School residential program. I supervised Teaching parent staff and High School and Middle School boys in residential program. I developed and oversee activities and programs that would promote students' mental, social, and behavior development.

Teaching Parent *August 1997 - May 1999*
Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind - Tucson, AZ

As a teaching parent, I supervised High schools in residential program. I took the role as students' parent when they are away from home. I administered after school activities and programs designed for residential students.

Resident Education Advisor *August 1995 - May 1997*
Model Secondary School for the Deaf - Washington, DC

As a Resident Education Advisor, I supervised High School girls in residential program. I took the role as students' parent when they are away from home. I administered after school activities and programs designed for residential students.

Coach for girl's basketball, softball and volleyball teams *August 1993 - May 1996*
Model Secondary School for the Deaf - Washington, DC

My responsibilities included teaching girls how to play softball, volleyball or basketball during their seasons at school. I teach them how to develop their skills with movement, footwork, play and sportsmanship. I also scheduled games for our teams.

Camp counselor and Team leader *July 1995 - August 1995*
NAD Youth Leadership Camp at Camp Taloali - Salem, OR

My responsibilities included checking up on the girls making sure that they follow the activities at camp daily. I assisted with developing activities that encourage their personal growth through leadership and cooperative learning. I also helped them learn how to work as a team and develop wilderness survival skills.

Education

<i>Master of Arts, Deaf Education</i> <i>Idaho State University - Pocatello, ID</i> GPA 3.8 <i>Awarded - I got the scholarship stipend at ISU.</i>	<i>July 2004</i>
<i>Bachelor of Science, Psychology</i> <i>Gallaudet University - Washington, DC</i> GPA 2.7	<i>May 1995</i>
<i>Degree, Liberal Arts</i> <i>Mesa Community College - Mesa, AZ</i> <i>Awarded - I got 2 years scholarship to play for MCC's women basketball team.</i>	<i>May 1992</i>

Committee

President for Gallaudet University Alumni Association	2016-2017
Advisor for Tucson Police Department's review panel	2020
Conference Interpreter Trainers Awards Coordinator	2018 to Present
ASLTA: David Martin Anthony's Legend Award Committee	2022 – Present
Board for National Deaf Interpreter	2023 - Present
Professional Development Committee for Registry Interpreter f/t Deaf	Jan 2024 – Present