

UCSD holds national conference on education of the deaf

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UCSD TO HOLD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION OF THE DEAF

A conference bringing together teachers from deaf schools, national scholars, deaf parents and community members, and researchers who are interested in literacy in deaf children will be held at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) from October 17-21.

The conference will include an open forum for interested members of the public on October 20 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., at UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, Room 3201. The forum will feature a distinguished panel of local educators including: Thomas Payzant, superintendent of San Diego City Schools; Newton Hamilton, principal, Lafayette Elementary School; and Ken Randall, superintendent, California School for the Deaf.

The major topics of discussion at "Language, Learning and Culture for Deaf Children" will include literacy in deaf children, planning for change, and designing learning environments for deaf people. The conference is being sponsored by UCSD's Third College, in honor of their 20th Anniversary Year and the Department of Communication, as well as Gallaudet University and the Greater Los Angeles Association of the Deaf.

"Deaf children, like many other minority children, experience great problems achieving literacy in written English," said Carol Padden, a professor of Communication at UCSD who is organizing the conference. "The traditional response to these problems has been to examine the relationship between deafness and reading processes. What is unique about this conference," added Padden, who is herself deaf, "is that it will open up the whole question of deaf learning to include issues having to do with culture, family, class and educational approaches in helping deaf children gain literacy."

According to Padden, the forty participants of the conference will include a wide representation of teachers of deaf children who are themselves deaf, as well as professionals from elementary education, community service, and specialists in language research and literacy education.

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