** Deaf Culture Glossary of Terms\***

**Accommodations:** Supports and services that allow learners access to the curriculum.

**Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs):** All types of electronic hearing aids, including personal aids, FM systems, infrared systems, special input devices for telephone or television, amplified alarms and signals, etc. **Bicultural:** Belonging to two cultures, such as Deaf culture and hearing culture.

**Closed Captioning (CC):** A feature that displays text description of spoken words, music, and sounds on TV programs, movies, or videos.

**Deaf Community:** A community of people whose primary mode of communication is ASL and who share a common identity, culture, and way of interacting with each other and the hearing community.

**Deaf Culture:** A view of life manifested by the morals, beliefs, artistic expression, understandings, and language (ASL) particular to Deaf people. A capital “D” is often used in the word Deaf when it refers to a community or cultural aspects of deafness.

**Educational Interpreter:** A professional who uses sign language/communication systems and spoken languages in school settings for the purpose of providing access to the general curriculum, classroom dynamics, extracurricular activities and social interactions.

**Hard of Hearing:** An individual with partial ability to hear who may communicate via sign language, spoken language, or both.

**Lip Reading (Also referred to as speechreading):** Using lip and mouth movements, facial expressions, gestures, and prosodic aspects of speech, structural characteristics of language, and topical and contextual cues to understand what a speaker is saying.

**Otologist:** A physician who specializes in the medical conditions of the ear.

**Symmetrical Hearing Loss:** Symmetrical hearing loss means that the degree and configuration of hearing loss are the same in each ear.

**Syntax:** Defines the word classes of language (i.e., nouns, verbs, etc.) and the rules for their combination (i.e., which words can be combined, and in what order, to convey meaning).

**Teacher of the Deaf (TOD):** A certified teacher that provides direct instruction and/or educational support for students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and collaborates with the educational team to enhance student learning.

**Video Relay Services (VRS):** A service provided by interpreters to relay phone conversations between American Sign Language (ASL) users and people who do not use ASL.

**\***Terms from OCALI (The Outreach Center for Deafness and Blindness)