

Gallaudet University Regional Center

Exciting seasonal news from the Gallaudet University Regional Center - Southwest

A Seasonal E-Newsletter

Issue 1: Spring 2013

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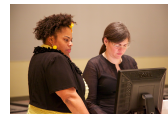


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What are GURCs?

Through the GURCs, Gallaudet University capitalizes on partnerships developed with the host institutions. Since 2011, the GURC at Austin Community College has helped to bring the mission of the university alive in the regions; by providing educational opportunities, professional dissemination, information dissemination, building local and regional alliances and promoting excellence in academics for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. The Southwestern Region administered by GURC at Austin Community College is comprised of the following 8 states: AR, AZ, CO, LA, NM, OK, TX and UT.

families, and the professionals who work with them.

The GURCs work within the Gallaudet University's Office of Regional and National Outreach. The GURCs coordinate many of their activities through various Gallaudet University departments and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center. To support the promotion of academic excellence, the regional centers work with the Office of Enrollment Services which coordinates the Gallaudet University Academic Bowl for deaf and hard of hearing high school students.

The GURCs offer training workshops, technical assistance, and extension courses. The GURCs address the educational, transition, and professional development needs of deaf and hard of hearing people, their

The GURCs connect and share resources between organizations, services and schools throughout the regions and Gallaudet University, enhancing opportunities for our target constituents.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY REGIONAL CENTERS

- West:** Ohlone College, Fremont, Calif. (Director: Pam Sneedgar)
- Pacific:** Kapi'olani Community College, Honolulu, Hawaii (Director: Judy Coryell)
- Southwest:** Austin Community College, Austin, Texas (Director: Arlene Gunderson)
- Midwest:** John A. Logan College, Carterville, Ill. (Director: Sheri Cook)
- Northeast:** Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, Mass. (Director: Kathleen Vesey)
- Southeast:** Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. (Director: Karen Sheffer)
- Other:** Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands (Director: Karen Sheffer)

Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana, Republic of Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands



GURC-SW's 2012-2013 Holiday Photo

In September and October of 2012, Gallaudet University Regional Center - Southwest warmly welcomed two new employees. JoAnn Benfield began her Coordinating duties in September while Libby, having been working part time for GURC-SW, became a full time Administrative Assistant in October of 2012.

JoAnn earned her B.A. degree in Production and Performance Arts with a minor in Educational Drama in 2006. In 2007, she returned to Gallaudet to pursue a degree in Secondary Education and English and received her B.A.'s in 2009. She received her M.A. degree in 2011 in Deaf Education. After several years of college and working in diverse fields, JoAnn began her professional career as a full time English and Theatre Arts teacher at the Texas School for the Deaf from 2010-2012 where she also directed theatre productions, coached middle school basketball and still coaches high school cheerleading. After a brief but rich journey with her teaching experience, JoAnn felt she needed to do more which led her to GURC-

SW; where it is her main objective to reach out to the community, coordinate events, conferences, training, meetings, festivals and so much more.

Libby started here part time in June and then was brought on full time in October. She moved here three years ago from Little Rock, Arkansas where she worked at the Arkansas School for the Deaf as the Assistant Librarian for six years. Libby earned her Associate of Arts degree from Pulaski Technical College in 2009; she is planning to pursue a Deaf Studies B.A degree from Gallaudet University. Libby moved here initially for her job at the Texas School for the Deaf as a Day Residential Educator then had her sights set on working for GURC-SW. Libby is also a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults). So that is where her passion came from with working with the Deaf.



JoAnn Benfield
Coordinator



Libby Allen
Administrative Assistant



2012-2013 Southwest Advisory Board

From November 8-9, 2013, GURC-SW invited advisory board members from all over the southwestern states of AZ, AR, CO, LA, NM, OK, TX and UT..

During these two days, we met with the board members who would be advocating our center by providing us with information and resources to help us better serve our states.



Arlene Gunderson, Director, discusses the purpose of GURC-SW and the importance of the Advisory Board.

The board members arrived on the 8th and met us for a nice dinner at Casa Chapala, so that everyone could become acquainted. The dinner was great and getting to know the board members was extremely valuable.

On the 9th, the Director of GURC-SW, Arlene Gunderson, gave a presentation that entailed what the center was about and what type of support the Advisory Board could provide. It was a well-rounded meeting and we are glad to have these members be a part of our Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board meeting will be annual and we look forward to the next one.



Carla Garcia-Fernandez of Texas shares her insights on what the state of Texas needs.



Academic Bowl 2013 Regionals

The 2013 Regional Academic Bowl had an exciting turn of events. Aside from the snow causing some travel delays, the competition started off strong and ended with a bang.

This year, Gallaudet University announced they would be going back to Regional Academic Bowl competitions instead of having one National competition that has been held in Washington, DC.

Salt Lake City, Utah was voted as the host for this year's 2013 Southwest Regional Academic Bowl competition. 15 teams attended from all over the Southwest Region among other at-large regions. The competition was held at the Sanderson Deaf Center and was a major success.

GURC-SW had the honor of sponsoring and co-coordinating this event with Gallaudet University and the main host - Kristi Mortensen of the Sanderson Deaf Center.

Tucson Area Public Schools won 1st place, Texas School for the Deaf won 2nd place and Kansas School for the Deaf won 3rd place.

The National Academic Bowl competition was held in Washington, DC from March 9 - 12, 2013. More information about Academic Bowl can be found at: www.gallaudet.edu/academic_bowl.html.

Sportsmanship Award
Jean Massieu School
for the Deaf



Deaf Women's Leadership Seminar

February 22-23, 2013, Gallaudet University Regional Center - Southwest hosted the Deaf Women's Leadership Seminar at the Austin Community College Eastview Campus.



All of the presenters and attendees of the seminar.

GURC-SW welcomed Evon Black and Melissa Draganac-Hawk to Austin, TX to provide an extensive weekend course on Deaf Women's Leadership. This seminar consisted of 18 female attendees from all over the southwestern regional states.

Melissa Draganac-Hawk and Evon Black provided an outstanding seminar that incorporated individual, partnered and group activities that allowed the women to partake in creative ways to connect with various leadership styles. A favorite activity that most women connected with, was the topic of conflict-resolution, in where they were able to do a survey and truly analyze their own leadership styles and how they approach situations in the working environment - that also applies to life in reality.

Overall, this seminar included discussion questions, information sharing and role-play along with some humor which made it a worthwhile trip for everyone. The attendees concluded the seminar with a newfound pride of their own leadership style and the ability to share information they learned from the seminar to be shared with their locals. This seminar is highly recommended to prospective leaders.

WORKING SMARTER BY WORKING TOGETHER



The National Outreach Conference

April 10 - 12, 2013



The National Outreach Conference was held in Tucson, Arizona from April 10-12, 2013 at the Hilton El Conquistador Hotel resort. This conference targeted Outreach Directors and Administrators in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing education community. For more information, go to: www.nationaloutreachconference.org

The National Outreach Conference commenced on April 10, 2013. With a total of 85 in attendance, we had a fabulous kick off ceremony with dessert and an opening presentation by Howard A. Rosenblum of NAD on the *Child First* campaign. The remainder of the conference focused on 7 strands. Partnerships, Programs, the Power of Technology, People, Places, Process, and Priorities.

During each strand, we had exemplary presenters share their outreach program, individual research or organization experience with the attendees. This allowed everyone to learn, share and collaborate on current and future outreach goals.



In wrapping up the conference, a discussion on the priorities of the National Outreach Conference was determined by allowing everyone to vote for a committee to partner with CEASD. This committee will determine the future of the National Outreach Conference.

We closed the conference on a good note by providing a delicious southwestern breakfast buffet the following morning.





September 2012-April 2013

TIDBITS

National Council of Hispanic Deaf and Hard of Hearing National Conference



The week of September 13-16, 2012, GURC-SW attended the National Council of Hispanic Deaf and Hard of Hearing National Conference located here in Austin, TX.

We were honored to provide a presentation on GURC-SW as well as a workshop for the Latino Deaf Youth.

We provided a hands-on workshop on Individual Assessment, Culture Awareness and Community Connection. This workshop allowed the Latino Deaf Youth to analyze their values and knowledge of their Latino background.

The three-hour workshop was successful and the students truly enjoyed their experience with us.

To learn more about NCHDHH, go to www.nchdhh.org

Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind 100th Anniversary Homecoming

From October 5-6, 2012, GURC-SW attended Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind's 100th Anniversary Homecoming.

This event drew in hundreds of alumni and current staff and students.

On October 5, we were fortunate to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony at the ASDB Museum. The museum shared years of nostalgic pictures, furniture and other pieces that have been kept and restored. We also attended their fun and creative pep rally hosted by the students.

On October 6, we hosted a brief presentation and had a booth sharing GURC-SW's resources during the volleyball and football games.

Overall the event was an enjoyable experience.

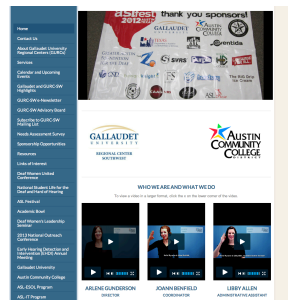
www.asdb.az.gov



GURC-SW Revamps their website!

On February 13, 2013, GURC-SW announced its revamping of their website.

This revamp included a new user friendly layout, updated information, slideshows and videos.



The updated website also features the new staff members and other events of interest.

Visit our website to view the most current information, events and archives.

To view the updated website, go to:

www.austincc.edu/swgurc

To receive more information from GURC-SW, go to the Contact Us link and follow the steps.

DeafNation 2013: GURC-SW hits Austin, TX and Phoenix, AZ



GURC-SW attended two DeafNation locations within their southwestern region.

The first DeafNation exhibition was held in Austin, TX on March 16, 2013 at the Palmer Events Center. This event drew in an astounding 3,400 attendees from all over the state of Texas. This was a local event not to be missed, as it occurred the same weekend as ATX's renowned South By Southwest (SXSW) event.

DeafNation in Phoenix, AZ was held at the Phoenix Convention Center on March 23, 2013. This event drew in 2,800 attendees from all over Arizona. GURC-SW had the honor of having its booth right across from the well known UFC fighter Matt Hamill.

For more information, visit www.deafnation.com

GURC-SW attends the 22nd Annual Imagination Celebration in Fort Worth, TX

In Fort Worth, TX, the 22nd Annual Imagination Celebration was held on April 19-20, 2013 at the Tarrant Community College.

This event drew in over 150 students from across the state of Texas. This event hosted two days worth of hands on workshops in visual and performing arts.

The workshops that were provided included dance, mime, drama, art, and drumming.



The final day performance included Judy Holloway's drumming, Peter Cook's hilarious acts and JJ Jones' miming; which all three included the students. The show wrapped up with beautiful and exciting dances by Fred Beam and his dance troupe.

Visit www.facebook.com/imagination.fw to learn more about this event.

COMING SOON!

Teen Leadership Summit
Deaf Action Center



May 2, 2013

Texas School for the Deaf
High School Science Fair



May 17, 2013

San Marcos High School
College/Career Day



May 24, 2013

Mountain States
Deaf Education Summit



June 11-13, 2013

Family Weekend Retreat
Texas School for the Deaf



June 14 - 16, 2013

New Mexico
Family Weekend Retreat



June 15-16, 2013

Deaf Women United
Conference



June 19-23, 2013

Campus Connections



July 25-26, 2013

National Black Deaf Advocates Conference



July 30 - Aug 4, 2013



REGIONAL CENTER
SOUTHWEST



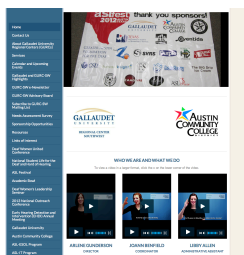
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