



TROY

UNIVERSITY

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**INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM
OCTOBER 4, 2007**

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Troy University bringing sign language to forefront of education

TROY – Troy University officials today announced with Gov. Bob Riley a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Education that will be used to implement a bachelor's degree program aimed at increasing the number of interpreters for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Through the Interpreter Training Program, TROY will offer the state's first bachelor of science degree in education with a comprehensive program in interpreting and eventually establish a Center on Deafness on its Troy Campus. In addition to the grant, the University will provide \$250,000 in matching funds, and commitments from several other partners will help establish student scholarships. Partnering with the University and the Department of Education will be the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

In announcing the grant, Gov. Riley said TROY's program will set a national standard.

"Alabama has made a commitment to invest in education at all levels, because investing in our educational system today pays dividends to all Alabamians tomorrow," he said. "The nation has recognized Alabama's success in our reading improvement and math, science and technology initiatives and Troy University's Interpreter Training Program will not only address a critical need in our state but will once again provide the nation with an ideal model for higher education."

TROY Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., who headed the Alabama Institute for the Blind and Deaf for 10 years before taking over the reigns at the University, recognized the need for certified interpreters.

"We have become keenly aware that our deaf community is facing a crisis and I am grateful for the opportunity to help address that crisis," said TROY Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. "I think this partnership will have a great impact on the quality of life and educational opportunities that our deaf citizens enjoy. TROY is worldwide in nature, but our service begins at home and that service begins by us addressing on a regular basis the needs that need to be met in order to improve the education and quality of life for all our citizens."

Troy University announced the grant at a news conference in the Rosa Parks Library and Museum Auditorium at the Montgomery Campus. Dr. Joe Morton, Alabama Superintendent of Education, and Judith Gilliam of the Alabama Association for the Deaf also participated in the news conference.

In addition to training interpreters, the University plans to provide at least one course to high school students through the Governor's ACCESS Program.

The program is desperately needed, said College of Education Dean Dr. Lance Tatum, because of the lack of interpreters available in Alabama and by a decision from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) that will require the bachelor's degree in order to gain national certification and licensure by 2012.

Tatum said that at TROY, students will complete the first two years in the general education curriculum and show proficiency in American Sign Language before being admitted to the program. Once in the program, students will take 20 courses in the curriculum focusing on interpreting skills and knowledge and an understanding of the deaf culture. Graduates will be required to achieve a 3.4 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment, in addition to completing two internships. An externship program will help support graduates as they pursue national certification. The University's proposal also includes the establishment of summer institutes to provide continuing education support to interpreters in Alabama.

"Troy University and the College of Education is dedicated to improving the availability of interpreters to those agencies and services in Alabama that support the deaf community," he said.

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Interpreter Training Program



At a Glance

- Implementation will lead to a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a program in Interpreting.
- By 2012, the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) will require a bachelor's degree for national certification.
- An externship will provide students

- The University will match the \$250,000 grant with \$250,000 to ensure the sustenance of the Interpreter Training Program and will eventually establish a Center on Deafness.



- Through the program, American Sign Language will be offered as an advanced-placement course to high schools in Alabama via the ACCESS Program.
- Courses will be delivered in the traditional classroom and via the eCampus.
- The University will conduct a national search for a program coordinator and for adjunct faculty and will hire highly qualified individuals to deliver instruction.
- An advisory committee comprised of both hearing and deaf individuals will provide input to the program.
- Students for the program will be recruited on a national basis.
- Intermediate Plus to Advanced sign language skills are required for admission to the major.
- Observation and field experiences are required for students, and two internships – one community based - the other K-12 based, are required for graduation. An exit criteria of 3.4 is required on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment.
- Summer Institutes will augment the student learning experience.
- Twenty courses in the curriculum will focus on interpreting skills and knowledge.
- Constituents who will be served by the program include deaf and hard-of-hearing clients, the Alabama State Department of Education, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, community agencies, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind regional centers, students in the state of Alabama and selected locations served by Troy University.
- This course of study addresses nationally identified competencies needed for entry into the profession in five domains: theory and knowledge, human relations, language skills, interpreting skills and professionalism.
- Prior to entry into the program, students will complete the 60-hour general studies requirement in education. These courses can be taken at a community or junior college, TROY campuses, TROY's traditional campus or via distance learning.

Interpreter Training Program



Executive Summary

Troy University proposed implementation of a Bachelor of Science degree with a program in Interpreting. Funds in the amount of \$250,000 were requested to support this effort. Students for this four-year degree would be recruited from local, regional and national levels.

Troy University has the vision, commitment, infrastructure, and resources to successfully implement the Interpreter Training Program (ITP). Chancellor Hawkins was the former President for the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind which has given him a unique perspective and insight to the issues relative to interpreters and interpreter training.

Support from the Chancellor and Dean of the College of Education demonstrates the high level of commitment to this program. Troy University will match the \$250,000 with an additional \$250,000, which underscores both the commitment and likelihood of sustaining the Interpreter Training Program. In addition, long-term goals include establishing a Center on Deafness at the University and seeking other grants to enhance this endeavor. Troy University will use the ACCESS program to deliver American Sign Language as an advanced-placement course to high schools in Alabama, using highly qualified instructors with national reputations. This endeavor will promote and stimulate an interest in deaf culture and in the profession.

The delivery of this Interpreter Training Program (ITP) will be offered through a variety of modalities: distance learning for the non-traditional student via the eCAMPUS and on campus for those students wishing a more traditional route to the degree. The Program Coordinator, one full-time faculty and Adjunct faculty, which would include deaf and hearing persons, will be recruited through a national search to insure a most highly qualified professional staff for this program and would include deaf and hearing persons. An advisory committee will be appointed which will have a pivotal role in guiding this project.

Students will complete the general studies requirement during the first two years of study. The ITP curriculum was designed after reviewing published national competencies needed for entry to the profession. Key elements in the curriculum include infusion of the four developmental levels of American Sign Language prior to admission to the program. Students will be required to achieve an Intermediate Plus or Advanced Level on the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview in order to be admitted to the program in interpreting. The program focuses on developing knowledge and skills specific to interpreting in a variety of settings. Practicum I and II will consist of field experiences and observations after admission to the program. Two internships are being required: one in a community setting and one in an educational setting (K-12 or postsecondary).

Exit criteria will be a 3.4 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). An externship program will provide trained mentors for ITP graduates to assist them in achieving the goal of acquiring state or national credentials within a year after graduation. Summer Institutes will allow immersion opportunities for students in the program, as well as for working interpreters to improve and enhance cultural knowledge and skills.

College of
Education
Interpreter
Training
Program



Troy University

At a Glance



Character: A public, comprehensive university with its main campus in Troy, Alabama. Troy University also operates three other campuses in Alabama and more than 60 teaching sites in 15 U.S. states and 11 countries outside the United States and one U.S. territory. Founded in 1887, TROY offers more than 70 majors.

Enrollment: Worldwide more than 28,000 from 50 U.S. states and more than 50 nations; Top five nations sending students to TROY—China, Nepal, Japan, South Korea, and India. All international students are enrolled on the Troy Campus.

Academic structure: Organized into five colleges — Arts and Sciences, Business, Communications and Fine Arts, Education and Health and Human Services.

Academic support: Adaptive needs counselors help those students with learning disabilities, the Writing Center assists students who need help polishing their writing skills and the Natural Science Center provides tutoring in mathematics and science skills. A first-year program helps freshmen successfully transition to college life.

Faculty: 75 percent of campus professors hold the terminal degree. Most classes are taught by faculty members and not teaching assistants. For all locations in the United States, TROY has 202 full-time tenured professors, 46 on the tenure track and 203 on the non-tenured track. Augmenting the full-time faculty are four tenure-track part-time professors and 1,038 instructors on the non-tenured, part-time track.

Class size: 19:1 student-teacher ratio

Library: Approximately 400,000 volumes and a wide variety of resources in multiple formats, including multimedia such as CD Rom, video, audiocassettes, etc. In addition, the library offers a wide variety of web-based research tools and links.

Computer resources: Each student receives a free @troy.edu e-mail account and wireless access is available in many buildings.

Housing: Eleven residence halls offer apartments, suites and traditional-style rooms for on-campus living on the Troy Campus and commercially owned apartment complexes are located within walking distance of the campus.

Career services: On-campus job interviews, job fairs, resume services, aptitude testing and advice and counseling on choosing a major and a career path are offered.

Athletics: Troy University fields 8 men's and 9 women's intercollegiate athletic teams. Teams compete in Division I-A, the highest level of NCAA play. Troy University's athletic teams compete in the Sun Belt Conference.

Admission: High school diploma with satisfactory grade point average and ACT/SAT scores.

Budget: For 2006-2007, TROY's total operating budget is \$183,464,186.



Troy University

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Chancellor



Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., a native of Mobile, Ala., was named Chancellor of Troy University Sept. 1, 1989. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Montevallo and his doctorate from the University of Alabama.

Upon completion of his bachelor's degree in 1967, Hawkins was commissioned a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and served as a platoon leader during the Vietnam War. During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Hawkins' platoon served with the Republic of Korea Marine Corps. For his combat duty, he received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and a citation from the Korean Marine Corps.

Hawkins' professional background includes his service as an assistant dean at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (1971-1979) and as president of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind in Talladega (1979-1989).

In 1985, he was honored by the University of Montevallo as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and was the recipient of the 2003 All-American Football Foundation's "Top College President" Award. Two buildings have been named in his honor: the "Jack and Janice Hawkins Chapel" at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind and the "Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor" on the campus of Troy University. The Alabama Broadcasters Association honored him with the 2007 Citizen of the Year. Also in 2007, the Troy University Board of Trustees voted to name the Jack Hawkins, Jr. College of Education Building in his honor.

Hawkins serves on the board of directors of the Business Council of Alabama, Better Business Bureau of Central Alabama, Troy Bank and Trust Company and Troy Regional Medical Center. He is chairman

of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Disabled, a member of the Air University Board of Visitors at Maxwell Air Force Base and serves on the Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. As Vice Chair of the International Committee of the Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), Hawkins has made presentations on



American higher education on behalf of American delegations of university presidents visiting Cuba and Morocco.

Hawkins was profiled as part of two books published in 2004: *Above and Beyond: Former Marines Conquer the Civilian World* by Rudy Socha and Carolyn Darrow and *The Entrepreneurial College President* by James L. Fisher and James V. Koch.

He served as Chairman of the Council of University Presidents in Alabama (1999-2001) and President of the Southland Football League. He has served as a trustee of Talladega College, the Helen Keller Eye Research Foundation and the American Foundation for the Blind. He is a member of the Troy Rotary Club.

Dr. Hawkins' family includes his wife Janice and two daughters Katie and Kelly. He and his family are members of the First Baptist Church of Troy.

Troy University

History of the Institution



Troy University's tradition of teaching excellence dates to its founding on February 26, 1887, when an act of the Alabama Legislature established State Normal School Troy as an institution to train teachers for Alabama's schools. Joseph Macon Dill was the institution's first president. In 1893, the school was renamed Troy State Normal College.

The Normal College offered extension courses for teachers and granted teaching certificates until 1929 when the State Board of Education changed the charter of the institution and renamed it Troy State Teachers College. That same year, the College moved to its present site and the first two buildings were dedicated: Shackelford Hall, named for Edward Madison Shackelford, president of the school from 1899-1936, and Bibb Graves, Alabama's "education governor." Graves is also remembered for commissioning the Olmsted Brothers architectural firm of Brookline, Massachusetts, to design the campus landscape plan.

Like many American universities, Troy State Teachers College enjoyed one of its most prosperous periods of growth in the years following World War II when returning veterans took advantage of the GI Bill. Under the presidency of Dr. C.B. Smith, the enrollment of the College more than doubled and this growth led to the introduction of degree programs in disciplines other than education, most notably in business. In 1957, the State Board of Education recognized this expanded role and dropped "Teachers" from Troy State College's name.

The decade of the 1950s also marked the University's long relationship with the United States military, as extension courses were offered on nearby bases, first at Fort Rucker, near Dothan and later at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. A separate Troy State College teaching center was established at Fort Rucker in 1961, which evolved into the modern Dothan Campus. A similar center, begun at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1965, led to the creation of the present-day Montgomery Campus. These programs were the forerunners of the modern University College division of Troy University, which operates all TROY teaching sites outside of Alabama at no cost to Alabama taxpayers.

In 1967, Gov. Lurleen B. Wallace appointed

eight members to the newly established Troy State College Board of Trustees, removing the institution from the control of the State Board of Education. One of the first acts of the new board was to recommend the change of the name to Troy State University. The new name became official on Dec. 14, 1967, following an announcement by President Ralph W. Adams.

In 1975, the Phenix City Campus was opened as a branch campus.

In 1982, the Troy State University System was formed, as the campuses in Dothan and Montgomery were granted independent accreditation status by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

In 2000, the Board of Trustees and Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor, discussed the unification

of the Troy State University System through the process of removing independent academic accreditation of Troy State University Dothan and Troy State University Montgomery. This led to a five-year strategic plan to consolidate the campuses into one university.

The administrative leadership and the Board of Trustees decided that unification of the Troy State University System was necessary to achieve the following goals:

- improve service to students by removing barriers to academic transfer;
- implement shared academic standards, policies and procedures at all Troy University campuses;
- Promote a worldwide brand identity for Troy University.

That process was a team effort with more than 350 faculty and staff members serving on committees and work groups that have handled the detail work of unification. The official unification of the University took place Aug. 1, 2005. This date also marked the official changing of the University's name from Troy State University to Troy University. The Board of Trustees approved this name change in April 2004 to better reflect the worldwide mission of the University.

Today, Troy University serves more than 28,000 students on four campuses in Alabama and on more than 60 campuses and teaching sites in 15 U.S. states, 11 countries and one U.S. territory. More than 100,000 Troy University alumni are located around the world.

