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**DEAF PROJECT RECEIVES FUNDS, STAFF RECOGNITION FROM
TWO MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS SERVING THE DEAF COMMUNITY**

Northridge, CA (July 7, 2014) – Hands fluttered excitedly in American Sign Language applause as Deaf Education And Families Project and its representatives were honored on two different coasts, by two different influential organizations serving the Deaf community, on one very exciting weekend.

On the West Coast, Rachel Friedman Narr, Ph.D., DEAF Project coordinator and a professor of special education at California State University, Northridge, with parent mentors Cora Shahid and Kristal Molina, gratefully accepted a cash and in-kind donation totaling \$1,400 from the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf (RID) Region V, as part of its RID Cares initiative. The donation was presented in San Diego on June 28 during the 2014 regional conference.

“The RID Cares initiative, established in 2011, is a regional and national philanthropic effort to benefit the Deaf community,” said Sedy Medina, RID Cares co-chair for the Region V Conference. “We selected DEAF Project for its notable work in helping to bridge the communication gap between deaf children and hearing parents.”

To fund the donation, Region V members held various fundraisers throughout San Diego in the months preceding the conference. Additionally, local artist Jon Savage, who is Deaf, partnered with RID Region V to donate a percentage of his proceeds from a silent auction event, contributing more than \$300.

“It’s an honor to have our work recognized and supported by RID Region V, and we are grateful for the opportunity to use this generous donation in continued support of families,” said Friedman Narr. “Donations like this are what allow DEAF Project to further its mission of supporting and empowering parents raising deaf and hard-of-hearing children.”

That same weekend, in Massachusetts, the American Society for Deaf Children recognized Shahid with the Lee Katz Award in honor of her unending support of families raising deaf and hard-of-hearing children. The award was presented during the organization’s annual conference. Shahid, who is hearing, is raising three children, one who is hearing and two who are deaf. In her work as a parent mentor with DEAF Project, Shahid interacts with hearing families raising deaf and hard-of-hearing children, including parents of newly identified deaf children. Her personal experience allows her to openly offer guidance and support from the invaluable perspective of a fellow parent

immersed in the journey. She also volunteers with various other related organizations in an effort to enrich the lives of children who are deaf and their families.

“We sincerely thank the American Society for Deaf Children for its recognition of Cora Shahid. Our parent mentors are dedicated advocates not just for their own deaf children, but all deaf children. Cora is a wonderful role model for fellow parents, and I’m proud to have her, and all of our parent mentors, on the DEAF Project team,” said Friedman Narr.

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ABOUT DEAF PROJECT:

The Deaf Education And Families Project (DEAF Project) supports and empowers families with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. To date, the organization has positively impacted more than 1,000 families throughout Southern California. DEAF Project aims to help parents realize the positive lifetime journey of bonding with and raising a deaf or hard-of-hearing child, rather than struggling with how to “fix” a “disabled” child. DEAF Project uses parent mentors, who themselves are raising deaf or hard-of-hearing children, to offer invaluable first-hand experience and emotional support to fellow parents and families. DEAF Project also offers free, family-focused American Sign Language classes (in Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley and San Diego) and monthly Family Fun Days aimed at connecting families with others like themselves. For more information, visit www.csun.edu/deafproject, email deafproject@csun.edu or call (818) 677-6854.