

# **Sharper Together**

## Summer Immersion: July 7-11, 2025

Schedule, Location Information, Session Descriptions, & Presenter Biographies

### **SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Monday July 7, 2025</b>	4:00-5:30 PM	Check In	Embassy Suites
	5:30-6:30 PM	Dinner	UCG
	6:30-8:00 PM	Regulation Update	UCG
<b>Tuesday July 8, 2025</b>	8:30-12:00 PM	Dr. Cates	UCG
	12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch	UCG
	1:30-5:00 PM	Dr. Deb Cates	UCG
	5:30-7:30 PM	Pizza & Pub Excursion	Greenville
<b>Wednesday July 9, 2025</b>	8:30-12:00 PM	Dr. Deb Cates	UCG
	12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch	UCG
	1:30-5:00 PM	Dr. Deb Cates	UCG
	5:30 PM	Dinner On Your Own	Explore Greenville
<b>Thursday July 10, 2025</b>	8:30-12:00 PM	Dr. Kim Kurz	UCG
	12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch	UCG
	1:30-5:00 PM	Dr. Kim Kurz	UCG
	5:30-6:30 PM	Dinner	UCG
	6:30-8:30 PM	Game Night	UCG
<b>Friday July 11, 2025</b>	11:00 AM	Check Out	Embassy Suites

# Location Information

## **Accommodation:**

Embassy Suites Greenville Golf Resort  
670 Verdae Boulevard  
Greenville, South Carolina 29607

[Google Map Link](#)

## **Workshop Venue:**

University Center Greenville (UCG)  
225 S. Pleasantburg Drive  
Greenville, South Carolina 29607

[Google Map Link](#)

# Session Descriptions

**Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

*The Keys to Key Vocabulary by Dr. Deb Cates*

The EIPA indicates the importance of representing key vocabulary and using fingerspelling appropriately in academic discourse. Despite its importance, interpreters consistently score lower on these indices than on others in the Vocabulary domain on the EIPA. In this workshop, we will look at three features of ASL discourse- *faceting*, *explain by examples*, and *contrasting*. Identified in previous literature as “expansion techniques”, these features of ASL provide opportunities to express breadth and depth of meaning beyond fingerspelling or the use of single signs. We will analyze native ASL discourse for examples of these features, identify appropriate times for their use in interpretation from English-to-ASL, and practice using them in our work.

Competencies: R1A, R3E, R3H

**Wednesday, July 09, 2025**

*Elevate Your ASL-to-English Interpreting by Dr. Deb Cates*

It can be challenging to develop a professional development plan for ASL-to-English interpreting. This is especially daunting for interpreters who work in isolation or with clients who use spoken language expressively. When you do not receive feedback on your work, you cannot identify areas for improvement. For interpreters who work regularly with ASL-to-English, it can be challenging to identify ways to polish our

work. This workshop is designed for a range of ASL-to-English interpreting skills. In the first part of this workshop, participants will review areas of ASL-to-English work that are challenging, from common concerns to more complex considerations of cultural mediation, register, and tone. They will also create an artifact of their ASL-to-English work. In the second part of this workshop, participants will analyze their recordings to identify their own areas of concern. In the third part of this workshop, interpreters will practice a series of exercises designed to support their growth in their individual areas of concern.

Competencies: RII A-J, RIV C, E

**Thursday, July 10, 2025**

*Constructed Action-Sharpen Your Tools by Dr. Kim Kurz*

Educational Interpreters, have you wanted to be the sharpest tool in your resource toolbox. Well now you can be. Join Dr. Kurz and gain great insight into her published research on constructed action, register, space, and how their interaction is key to a cohesive interpretation. Throughout this deliberate practice workshop Kurz, Mullaney and Occhino's research will drive the concept of "perspective taking" a complex cognitive task selected to spearhead this hands-on constructed action enriched training through hands on application and modeled instruction, Educational Interpreters will gain a greater understanding on how to produce a grammatically organized, semantically prepared, interpreted message.

Competencies: R1C, D, E, G

## Presenter Biographies

**Kurz, Kim, Ph.D.** Dr. Kim Kurz is a Professor in the Department of American Sign Language and Interpreting Education (ASLIE) at the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT/NTID). Kim is currently an Interim Director of NTID Sign Language Assessment & Resource Center. Kim was ASLIE chairperson from 2010 to 2020 and oversees NTID's Program Assessment Outcomes and Evaluations in NTID's Academic Affairs division. Her career at RIT/NTID has always had a strong focus on mentoring students and faculty related to their research projects, teaching a research methods course to interpreting students who are in their senior year. Kim's dissertation topic focused on how deaf children learn through direct instruction compared with mediated instruction via sign language interpreter and has done numerous research in the field of educational interpreting.

**Cates, Deb, Ph.D.** Dr. Cates is the Sign Language Program Coordinator at the Iowa School for the Deaf. She oversees staff sign language development, the administration of the SLPI program, and Educational Interpreter professional development. Deb has a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, Davis, where she studied sign language structure and processing under Dr. David Corina. She has a long-time affiliation with Gallaudet University's Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2). Deb was on the student leadership team for three years at VL2. Currently, Deb is the President of the National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAIE). Her research interests include the relationship between form and meaning in signed languages, bilingual education, and the cognitive demands of simultaneous interpreting. She actively develops research-based practices for interpreter skill development. Deb also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Deaf Studies with an Interpreting Emphasis from California State University, Northridge. She has thirteen years of experience in educational interpreting and holds an EIPA certification (Level 4.7 PSE/ASL).