



December, 2015

I knew we had the right trainers when I saw their passion ignite a sense of possibility and purpose in each of the future mentors in the room.

In developing the COMPASS Program that will support the preparation of American Sign Language (ASL)/English interpreters with Deaf parents, a mentoring component was envisioned and necessitated the training and preparation of a whole new team of mentors.

We never imagined we could work directly with Dr. Lois Zachary and Ms. Lory Fischler, the authors of the books we had been using to inform the development of our mentor program. But we were fortunate to be able to do so. From the moment we began working with Dr. Zachary and Ms. Fischler, they worked closely with our team to design a training experience that was tailored to the exact needs of our group of new mentors; their efforts to understand the dynamics of our program and the culture and characteristics of the mentors and future protégés was impressive!

During the actual training, the doubt that many of the new mentors felt gave way to possibility. The tools, resources, structure, and approaches were all placed directly in our hands, and explained with the expertise you can only expect from two talented and capable trainers.

I couldn't have been more certain that they knew our mentors than when they responded to a question from one of our mentors:

What do you see as our biggest hurdle? Dr. Zachary responded without hesitation: ***Passion.***

She went on to explain that the passion, energy, and emotion of the mentors would have to be harnessed or it would harness us. These prophetic words have had a profound impact on our awareness and work ever since.

As the coordinator of the COMPASS Program at the VRS Interpreting Institute, I would recommend Dr. Zachary and Ms. Fischler without hesitation. It was a true pleasure working with them and I hope we have additional opportunities to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Nelson", written in a cursive style.

Holly Nelson