



Contact:  
Amy Ruberl, Executive Director  
National Cued Speech Association  
800.459.3529 v/tty  
info@cuedspeech.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***NCSA Awards 2008 Cornett Memorial Scholarship to Jennifer Godsey***

May 8, 2008—Bethesda, MD—The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) announces the award of the R. Orin Cornett Memorial Scholarship to Jennifer Godsey (North Carolina). The R. Orin Cornett Scholarship Fund, which supports qualified individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing in their post-secondary endeavors, makes this award possible.

“Providing scholarships to deaf cuers was part of Dr. Cornett’s vision. We are proud to award this scholarship in his name to a cuer like Jennifer who is such a clear example of how Cued Speech helps deaf students reach their potential. We wish Jennifer the best of luck in realizing her dreams,” said NCSA President Sarina Roffé.

This scholarship honors Dr. Cornett’s memory and lifelong dedication to Cued Speech, as well as his personal interest in the academic successes of cuers around the nation. Dr. Cornett developed Cued Speech in 1965-66, during his first year as Vice President of Long-Range Planning at Gallaudet University. His goal was to develop a way for deaf children to access clearly and visually the properties of spoken language.

Research has shown that individuals who cue typically reach their maximum literacy potential and often perform at or above grade level in language testing. Most cuers pursue post-secondary education and the NCSA supports them in achieving their goals.

The recipient of the award must have used Cued Speech as his or her primary mode of communication during their crucial language learning years or for five or more years of their education. He or she must be entering or attending an undergraduate, graduate, or vocational institute for the upcoming school year. The scholarship is not based on academic achievement, need or degree of hearing loss. Rather, scholarship recipients qualify by writing an essay that reflects the mission, vision and goals of the NCSA, which include championing effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech.

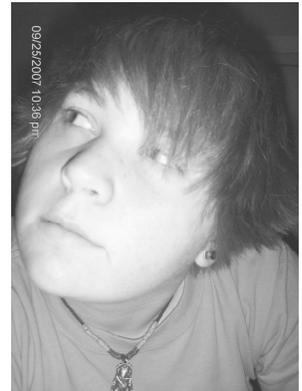
### About Jennifer Godsey

Jennifer is a resident of North Carolina and currently lives in Raleigh. She was introduced to

Cued Speech at the age of 15 months, after her parents learned she was profoundly deaf. Her mother wrote a letter to the governor of North Carolina, asking for help and information about options regarding deafness. She received information from the Governor's office about Cued Speech and contacted Beth Walker. By age three, Jennifer was cueing fluently and showing tremendous potential. Her parents moved from Roanoke Rapids to Raleigh so that Jennifer could get a mainstream education.

In her scholarship essay, Jennifer said,

“Cued Speech has given me the ability to comprehend what others are saying as well as being able to learn other languages. I have taken two years of Latin, and having a Cued Speech Transliterator in there made it so thrilling and easy to learn. My mom and dad, before they passed away, were determined to put me in an environment where I would learn to grow strong and independent. That's where going to mainstream schools comes in.... My parents wanted me to learn how to fit [in] and adjust with the life that we have now. The world is based on communication and that's what I so strongly needed.”



Dianne Greene, a transliterator who has worked with Jennifer for the last 13 years, praised Jennifer for her academic achievements.

“In addition to being very bright, Jennifer is extremely motivated and will, no doubt, be very successful in college and in her future career. She recently achieved the prestigious ‘Spotlight on the Student’ award as a high school senior and was awarded that title in eighth grade also. She has worked extremely hard to make the highest grades in her schoolwork and currently has a GPA of 3.8. She has continued to break records in History and Physical Science for the having the highest grade for the year.

“It is very clear that she is academically gifted and dedicated as she has achieved these goals while completing honors classes. It's also important to note that she achieved these goals after losing both her parents at the age of 15 during her freshman year of high school. Through it all, she showed great strength, dedication, love, and character and continued to grow and develop into a very strong individual. She is very well rounded and has a wonderful outlook on life with great dedication to academics, personal aspirations and her community.”

Jennifer is graduating from the high honors program at Needham Broughton High School in Raleigh, NC, and plans to attend Meredith College in the fall.

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The National Cued Speech Association champions effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech. The NCSA launched the Deaf Children's Literacy Project in 1997. For more information contact [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org) or visit [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org).