



Contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois State University Receives \$100,000 Grant to Establish a Cued Speech Program

July 31, 2007 – Bethesda, MD — The National Cued Speech Association applauds the Ron and Mary Ann Lachman Foundation in Chicago, Illinois, for providing a \$100,000 five-year grant to Illinois State University's Department of Special Education to establish a Cued Speech program.

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Illinois State University is the only public university or college in Illinois that has a teacher certification program in deaf education. The grant will provide funding for instructional opportunities in and about Cued Speech to students in the university's deaf education program. Students will become more aware of Cued Speech, see cueing in instructional settings by visiting the Alexander Graham Bell Montessori School and take beginner-level Cued Speech classes. Scholarships and paid internships will support students striving to achieve advanced skills and training in Cued Speech.

Laurie Sexton, an ISU professor, will work with Benjamin Lachman of the Lachman Foundation to develop the Cued Speech program. Ben is the son of Ronald and Mary Ann Lachman and a native deaf cuer. He is a 2005 graduate of California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. In addition to working as a real estate developer, Ben is on the board of directors of the National Cued Speech Association serving the Great Lakes region, which comprises Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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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 or visit www.cuedspeech.org.

National Cued Speech Association

Information Services ♦ 5619 McLean Drive ♦ Bethesda, MD 20814-1021
800-459-3529 (v/tty) ♦ www.cuedspeech.org ♦ E-mail: info@cuedspeech.org