

LARRY R. PUTHOFF

When we think of deaf education in South Dakota, the name of Larry R. Puthoff inevitably comes to mind. Motivated by a strong sense of duty and concern for the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children, Larry, a native of Humboldt, South Dakota, has dedicated his life to the profession of deaf education. A total of 35 years of his life have been spent at the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD), ten (10) as a student, 1954-1964, and twenty-five (25) as a teacher of social studies and administrator, 1970-1995. He served as acting principal in 1990 and as the school's third deaf superintendent in 1991.



Larry brings many strengths to the area of education. He is a relentless, innovative, and insightful professional with the proper sympathy and expertise specific to the immediate and particular needs of deaf and hard of hearing children. As educational practices evolve to current trends that emphasize the application of education to community and the world of work, educators of Larry's caliber are especially helpful in developing the "tools" of life which the children need for positive participation and productive results in the workplace and/or higher education.

As a school administrator, Larry brought to the SDSD program a wide breadth of experience with him that enhanced the vision and understanding of deaf education generally. His familiarity with the basic fundamentals of the bilingual-bicultural philosophy, an increasingly popular educational approach today across the nation, is noteworthy. He is an advocate of the focus on the "whole child" which brings a new direction to deaf education aimed at the establishment of a much needed focus on student-centered curriculums to educate the "whole" child, not the fragmentary whole. Student-centered classrooms empower students and better prepare them for the future workforce and lifelong learning and application. Larry is one of the nation's most outstanding student-centered teachers and, in recognition for this, he is a member of the accreditation team of the Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf which evaluates the nation's schools and programs for the deaf.

Born on Mother's Day, May 12, 1946, he attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf in 1954 and graduated in 1964. His educational background includes a B.A. in Education from Gallaudet University, 1970; M.A. in Special Education from Augustana College, 1977; and M.A. in Administration and Supervision from California State University, Northridge, 1991.