

## **TIPS FOR WORKING WITH DEAF & HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS**

**DO** speak clearly and directly to the student. Be aware of the student and try to face him/her when speaking, without distractions near the face or mouth.

**DO** repeat a sentence exactly. If still not understood, then choose alternative phrases to express your thoughts.

**DO** provide preferential seating if requested.

**DO** monitor environmental noise, if possible.

**DO** monitor environmental light. Be aware of environmental issues, such as not standing in front of a window. Standing in front of a light source makes it difficult to speech read, pick up visual cues, etc.

**DO** point out who is talking. Ask students to raise their hands so that the student who is deaf or hard of hearing is always aware of who is speaking.

**DO** repeat questions/comments from the class.

**DO** be familiar with Assistive Listening Devices. Pacing around the room while lecturing may cause interference.

**DO** make sure that all videos shown in class or assigned as homework are captioned.

**DO** discuss communication access with the student.

**DON'T** turn away from the person's view when speaking.

**DON'T** over-exaggerate your speech.

**DON'T** attempt to talk over loud environmental noise: wait for the noise to stop or move to a quieter location.

**DON'T** speak while writing on the board with your back to the student.

**DON'T** shout when speaking.

**DON'T** speak with objects in or in front of your mouth.

**DON'T** pace around the room while lecturing.

**DON'T** assume that the student is aware of all the available support services. Refer the student to the Disability Resource Center if needed.

**Boise State University**  
**Disability Resource Center**  
**(208) 426-1583, [drcinfo@boisestate.edu](mailto:drcinfo@boisestate.edu)**  
**Information from, <http://pepnet.org/>.**