

NTID selects Jelica Nuccio as 1997 Lyon Lecturer

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NTID selects Jelica Nuccio as 1997 Lyon Lecturer The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a college of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), recently named Jelica Nuccio, a 1988 RIT alumna, as the 1997 Edmund Lyon Memorial Lecturer.

As the Lyon lecturer, Nuccio, project officer with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, will make a series of presentations to NTID students and faculty members on her area of expertise. She also will meet with students in NTID's support department in RIT's College of Science and students at Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD) during her April 6-12 visit.

After completing her bachelor of science degree in biology from RIT's College of Science, Nuccio worked as a research specialist and cytogenetic technician in the pediatric department of Emory University in Atlanta. There she identified the parental origin of 850 Down Syndrome cases per year, detected the gene on Fragile X syndrome, and researched the cause of spontaneous abortion cases. In 1993, Nuccio transferred to the Emory Genetic Laboratory, where, as cytogenetic technician, she tested and analyzed chromosomes and presented unusual findings to geneticists and physicians.

Nuccio, a native of Croatia (the former Yugoslavia) whose family moved to the United States in pursuit of educational opportunities for their deaf daughter, was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome at age 19. Usher Syndrome is a genetic condition that combines congenital deafness with progressive vision loss caused by retinitis pigmentosa. Nuccio's dwindling eyesight motivated her to complete her master of public health degree in behavioral sciences and health education in 1996 from Emory University. In her current position with the Centers for Disease Control, she has left the laboratory to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment on deaf populations, focusing on state and local programs for deaf and deaf-blind people.

The Edmund Lyon Memorial Lectureship was established in memory of Edmund Lyon, a trustee of RSD from 1911-20 and an RIT trustee from 1905-20. Each year, the lectureship brings to campus for several days deaf persons who have distinguished themselves in careers in science, technology, business, industry, the arts, or public service, and who stand as role models to deaf students as well as professional staff members.