

## The Ford Foundation partners with NTID

March 1, 1999

An \$89,000 grant from The Ford Foundation will make possible the development of a pilot program for teacher development through distance learning offered by NTID's Master of Science of Secondary Education for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (MSSE).

The grant, which will advance the institute's strategic goal of increasing NTID's impact on teacher development in innovative ways, will support the transformation of one of the core courses in the MSSE program, "Deaf Students: Educational and Cultural Diversity," into distance learning formats that can be effectively delivered as in-service professional development for current teachers or as an additional course elective for students in teacher preparation programs.

The course is designed to introduce a broad perspective of cultures and diversity in the deaf community and to discuss the educational and cultural implications for deaf students in schools. The course includes discussions of demographics; deaf cultures; communication issues; expectations and attitudes of parents, teachers, and deaf adults; different educational settings; and teaching strategies for a diverse classroom.

Accredited by the Council on Education of the Deaf (CED), MSSE is the only CED-accredited program that is solely focused on secondary education. The program stresses the importance of providing exceptionally well-prepared secondary school teachers for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

The Ford Foundation has committed to promoting key recommendations of the 1996 National Commission on Teaching and America's Future report, *What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future*. The Commission stresses the importance of providing teachers with access to the growing knowledge that exists about how to teach different kinds of learners effectively.