

NTID Gets OK To Offer A Certificate In Theater

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The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) received approval by the New York State Department of Education to establish a certificate program for the Center of Performing Arts theater curriculum.

The Performing Arts department expects to grant five graduation students from the class of 2001 the certificate, but Bonnie Meath-Lang, the department chairperson, expects the number to rise significantly in the coming years.

The NTID Performing Arts program offers two different tracks for a theater certificate, each requiring 15 credit hours to complete. Students may either take the Performance/Script track for actors or the Technical Track for lighting designers, set designers and stage managers.

"The certification program helps students build confidence, express themselves creatively, and develop a good work ethic," said Meath-Lang. "When they enter the workforce, managers will be impressed by the certificate because it shows that the student has had experience being disciplined, committed, and punctual."

Meath-Lang also said that 93 students with theater experience through NTID's Performing Arts program have gone on to work professionally in theater.

The Center of Performing Arts also stages a major production each quarter, as well as a variety of smaller, student-run shows in the Robert F. Panara Theater. In recent years, the theater has been host to productions like "West Side Story," "Antigone" and "Peter and the Wolf."