

## **NTID offers fiber optics training**

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The first group of students has completed the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's new course in fiber optic cabling, meeting all the requirements for fiber optics standards, as presented by the Low Voltage and Data Communications Contractors Association.

Because fiber has a much wider bandwidth than copper, it can carry thousands of communication channels on a single fiber, whereas copper can carry only one channel per media, such as telephone or television.

"Only recently has the cost of fiber come down to be competitive with copper," explains Paul Taylor, a professor in NTID's applied computer technology program. "Industry forecasts show that replacing copper with fiber will take place over the next 20 years, due to the labor-intensive nature of the changeover."

NTID students are learning the fundamentals of optics, how light travels down a glass fiber, splicing glass fibers together, attaching connectors to fibers, the various types of cables used in industry and fiber optic standards.

Upon course completion, students who earn certification are trained to be fiber optic technicians to meet the forecasted demand for manpower. More than 30 students already have been certified in two quarters.