

NSF awards grant to NTID

April 1, 2000

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has just announced funding of Deaf Initiative in Information Technology (DIIT), a project of the Applied Computer Technology (ACT) Department at NTID. Funding from NFS's Division of Undergraduate Education, Applied Technology Education program, is in the amount of \$526,332 for the 3-year project. The director of this project is Donna Lange, department chairperson, with Don Beil as co-principal investigator, but all 10 members of the department will participate in the DIIT effort.

The project will:

provide ten re-training workshops to deaf and hard-of-hearing adults in the information technology (IT) field,

cluster these workshops into a certificate program, and

modify the workshops into undergraduate courses.

NSF funding will allow each ACT faculty member release time for one academic quarter and will provide \$2,500 for each department member to attend IT conferences to upgrade his/her technical skills. During this leave, faculty will enhance IT skills, develop curricula, and offer IT workshops at NTID to deaf and hard-of-hearing adults already in the national workforce or preparing for IT employment. The funding will also establish a new computer laboratory to support workshop activities and will allow faculty to incorporate new IT material into the ACT full-time undergraduate curriculum to benefit NTID students.

For more information, contact Beil at dhbndp@rit.edu or Lange at dalndp@rit.edu.