

## FORD AND CBS FOUNDATIONS GIVE TO NTID

April 8, 1999

Deaf and hard-of-hearing students across the country will benefit as a result of grants from the Ford and CBS Foundations to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

An \$89,000 grant from the Ford Foundation will fund a pilot program for teacher development through distance learning offered by NTID's Master of Science in Secondary Education of Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (MSSE); the only Council on Education of the Deaf-accredited program that is solely focused on secondary education.

Through distance learning, "Deaf Students: Educational and Cultural Diversity" can now be delivered as in-service professional development for teachers, counselors, audiologists, or as an additional course elective for students in teacher preparation programs.

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 growing knowledge that exists about how to teach different kinds of learners effectively.

A \$20,000 gift from the CBS Foundation will fund several scholarships for students who would have otherwise been unable to attend NTID's flagship outreach program, *Explore Your Future (EYF)*.

Recognized by national organizations such as the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools for the Deaf, and the Conference of American Instructors of the Deaf, EYF is a week-long program where deaf and hard of hearing high school seniors learn about careers in technical, professional and liberal arts areas. Also, personal growth and awareness programs provided assist students in understanding themselves, their interests and different learning styles.

This program fulfills a critical need for deaf and hard of hearing people, most of whom are mainstreamed in public school systems and do not have access to the same career awareness and development programs as their hearing peers.

Supporting the EYF program was a perfect match for the CBS Foundation, which funds both higher education and public schools, with particular attention to projects that provide academic and career opportunities for women and minority students.