

## Japanese princess participates in NTID/TCT videoconference

June 1, 1998

Dr. Robert Davila, Vice President for NTID, participated in a live teleconference June 2 with Princess Ayanomiyasama (Kiko-sama), wife of the second oldest son of Emperor Akihito of Japan, and faculty members of Tsukuba College of Technology, NTID's sister institution in Amakubo, Tsukuba, Japan. The videoconference, held across 11 time zones and the International Date Line, was conducted with NTID's new V-Tel digital videoconferencing system. Dr. Susan Fischer, professor and research faculty in NTID's Applied Language and Cognition Research Department, provided translation in American Sign Language, spoken Japanese, and NihoSyuwa (NS), Japanese Sign Language.

The princess, who has a background in psychology, learned NS from one of the founders of the Japanese Theatre of the Deaf and was the royal patron of the World Federation of the Deaf when the organization convened in Tokyo in the early 1990s.

The V-Tel system was funded in part from a \$150,000 grant from the Sprint Foundation and has been used, since its installation early this year, to link NTID students with potential employers, send educational programming to sign language students, and contact prospective NTID students and their parents.