A deaf business owner, Alicia Lane-Outlaw is president and chief creative officer of AllOut Marketing. Her firm connects unique communities with a comprehensive portfolio of services including marketing strategy, web/print design, and online marketing for clients such as Bayer, the State of Minnesota, American Society for Deaf Children, ASL Teachers Association, University of Minnesota, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and Gallaudet University. A longtime advocate of the Deaf and recently served in a judge to select the 2016 award winners for the nation's only deaf artist residency program. Past activism includes creating the visual materials for the 2010 Deaf Rochester Film Festival, maintaining a longtime deaf news and events site, and serving several years as a judge for NTD’s Next Big Idea competition. Alicia graduated cum laude from Lenoir-Rhyne University with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a visual arts minor. A St. Paul resident, she enjoys humor, the outdoors, and involvement in the local community with her wife Susan and their daughter.

Chad Ludwig
Judge

Elle Mendiola-McKinnie
Judge

Storm Smith
Judge

Tri Ngo
Judge

Tri is a proud native of the Bay Area, the heart of Silicon Valley. He attended the Rochester Institute of Technology where he earned a B.S. degree in Information Security & Forensics and an M.S. degree in Information Technology. His passion for computer science started in early childhood, when he received his first computer, the Commodore 64, and learned his first programming language, Basic. Since 2012, he has worked at Google as an M&A operations engineer. Twenty percent of his time at work is focused on advocating for deaf communities and accessibility. In 2013, he was involved in the Google I/O Youth Program as an ADA advocate mentoring and empowering middle school students from the California School for the Deaf - Fremont to explore the endless possibilities in the field of computer science. In addition, he has visited a deaf school in Dalat, Vietnam, and inspired deaf students there to overcome their struggles and oppression. In his free time, he enjoys biking, movies and amazing food.

A native of Chicago, Michelle "Elle" Mendiola-McKinnie had been involved in the pageant industry for a little over a decade (former Miss Deaf Illinois 1997-1999, chaperone, stage manager, state pageant director, role model for all members of the deaf community, particularly for deaf people of color. Storm also leads as an example for the hearing community, finding the courage to live a creative life. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Gallaudet University and she received a Master's Degree in Media Entrepreneurship from American University in May 2016. Currently, Storm is working as a Video Producer/Director specializing in Creative Marketing for the University Communications at Gallaudet University. Aside from living her dreams and making her passions a reality, she continues to be a vibrant force for change, organizing and speaking at conferences and universities across the country, and mentorship programs for deaf students.

Chad A. Ludwig was elected as President of the Oregon Association of the Deaf in 2013. Chad’s goal is to engage in a community-based assessment that will identify and address the needs and concerns of the deaf, DeafBlind, DeafPlus and hard of hearing community in Oregon. Chad relocated from Rochester, NY to Portland, Oregon in October 2012 to be closer to his family. He currently works as Senior Regional Director of West Region for ZRIS, one of six video relay service providers. A California native, Chad graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Master of Social Work from East Carolina University, including a Graduate Certificate in Social Work Practice with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In 2015, he received a certification in American with Disabilities Act Coordinator through ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program (ACTCP) at University of Missouri. Currently, Chad is an advisory board member with Oregon Deaf Empowerment and Advocacy for Families, Oregon's Early Hearing Detection & Intervention, chair for Community Needs Assessment Stakeholders Group, and co-chair for Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.
The NAD YAP is a competition for deaf and hard of hearing youth ages 18 to 30 within the deaf community. Through five competition rounds, contestants will compete against each other to determine who will be the next two NAD Youth Ambassadors. During this competition, contestants will compete in Rounds 4 and 5, as Rounds 1 - 3 have been done before and during the Conference. The two Youth Ambassadors will work with the NAD to implement a strategic plan that addresses a social issue(s) within the deaf community identified by the individuals during the competition. Moreover, the Ambassadors will represent the NAD at presentations, workshops, the Youth Leadership Camp (YLC), and other events all over the nation.

- Jose Martinez
  - Baytown, TX
  - Contestant

- Joshua Mora
  - Wheeling, IL
  - Contestant

- Samantha Shupe
  - Henrietta, NY
  - Contestant

- Jeffrey Spinale
  - Camby, IN
  - Contestant

- Samuel Williamson
  - Hampton Bays, NY
  - Contestant

- Ernest Willman
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Contestant

- Precious Bautista
  - Waianae, HI
  - Contestant

- Tanea Brown
  - Rochester, NY
  - Contestant

- Joshua
  - Mora
  - Wheeling, IL
  - Contestant