



YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



Alim Chandani
YAP Co-Director

Current Occupation:
Student Success Specialist/Assistant Professor at Gallaudet University
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Renca Dunn
YAP Co-Director

Current Occupation:
Missionary at Youth With a Mission
Hometown: Flagstaff, AZ

Connie Pucci
YAP Judge/Evaluation Coordinator

Current Occupation:
Adjunct Faculty at Gallaudet University
Hometown: London, Ontario, Canada

Tyler Swob
YAP Sponsorship Coordinator

Current Occupation:
Investment Banker
Hometown: Charlotte, NC

Alexandria Pucciarelli
YAP Retreat and Logistics Coordinator

Current Occupation:
Ethics Instructor at Seymour Joesph Institute
Hometown: Staten Island, NY

Julio Rodriguez
YAP Public Relations Coordinator

Current Occupation:
Communication Solutions Executive with sComm
Hometown: Cape Coral, FL

Special thanks to volunteers, sponsors, and you for making this program possible.

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.

<p>Rosa Lee Timm Emcee</p>		<p>Keith Delk Beach Park, IL Contestant</p>		<p>Ryan Hait-Campbell Seattle, WA Contestant</p>		<p>Danah Richter New Kensington, PA Contestant</p>	
<p>Tyrone Giordano Emcee</p>		<p>Allison Friedman Wheeling, IL Contestant</p>		<p>Elena Mayer St. Louis, MO Contestant</p>		<p>Satish Thapa New York, NY Contestant</p>	



ARLENE
Garcia Gunderson, M.Ed
Judge

She was born and raised in the Bronx, New York. After graduating from Gallaudet in 1999 with BA in Social Work, along with Masters in Deaf Education from McDaniel College, she continued to contribute to the Miss Deaf America program as a Stage Manager at the 2010 NAD Conference. Subsequently, she served as the Director of Miss Deaf America Ambassador Program at the 2012 NAD Conference. Arlene is married to Jason Gunderson (03) and have four CODA children together. Currently, she works as a Director of Gallaudet University Regional Center - Southwest at Austin Community College. Gunderson's advice: Always seek, ask and listen for elder's advice - not because they are always right but because they have more experiences that comes with lessons of mistakes and wrong doings.



CHAD
Taylor
Judge

Chad grew up in London, Ontario, Canada, and attended Robarts School for the Deaf. Chad grew up with a keen interest in two things: computers and movies. Chad has been involved in the VRS industry for the most part of his career. Over the past few years, he has been a serial entrepreneur where he founded several companies: Mosdeux, Convo Communications, CageScore, and NeverFold. Linguabee is his current company, an online interpreting marketplace, that is operating in the Bay Area and soon nationwide focusing on empowering the Deaf community to have control over the selection of interpreters. In addition, he is a proud parent to Pax and Thoreau alongside a very supportive wife, Tara Holcomb. They are expecting a third child this October. Taylor's advice: Don't chase your dreams at the expense of those close to you. Take care of those who help you, be it coworkers, family, or friends. Support others and you will receive the same. Success is best when shared.



ELIZABETH
Moore, Ph.D
Judge

Dr. Elizabeth Moore is MSW Program Director / Associate Professor at Gallaudet University, Department of Social Work. Born and reared in Philadelphia, she attended W. & E. Martin School, an oral day school for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Later she transferred to Pennsylvania School for Deaf where she finally learned ASL. Dr. Moore graduated from Gallaudet with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work in 1981, a Master of Social Work degree in 1994, then a doctorate degree in Special Education Administration in 2011. Dr. Moore is a member of National Black Deaf Advocates and DC Area Black Deaf Advocates. She is an honorary life member and former board member of Deaf Women United, Inc. She was appointed twice by the Governor of VA to serve on the VA Dept. for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons Advisory Board. Dr. Moore belongs to a family with four generations of deaf members. Dr. Moore's advice: Deaf youth should grab every opportunity and make good use of it. Even when you stumble, get up and use the challenge as an opportunity. If you are not certain how to do it, it is okay to ask a question. If you think that is not appropriate to ask, it is not because you sincerely seek an answer. The answer to the question will help you make better choices and reach your fullest potential.



JAYNE
Kim
Judge

Since 2006, Jayne Kim, a native of Southern California, works as a Deaf Services Therapist at Five Acres, an agency that serves Deaf children, youth, and their families in Greater Los Angeles. In 2001, she received a BA in Graphic Design from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and completed an MA in Mental Health Counseling from Gallaudet University in 2006. When Kim is not taking occasional out-of-town trips during her free time, she enjoys doing outdoor activities such as snowboarding, biking, and surfing. Kim's advice: Deaf and hard of hearing youth should not let their fear and self-doubt cripple their life. Those two main things usually blur your vision on the path to success in life, especially as a young person. If you succumb to fear and self-doubt but still acknowledge them, you have the ability to truly embrace your flaws and transform them into strengths that would fuel your well-being. Everyone is unique in their own ways and so are you.



OPEOLUWA
Sotonwa, LL.M
Judge

Opeoluwa Sotonwa is a Nigerian-born attorney. He currently serves as the Vice President of National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA). He is the Chair of NBDA Board of Directors as well as several committees within the NBDA, including Bylaw Committee, Media and Communication Committee, and Advocacy and Policy Committee. Opeoluwa is also a member of the Diversity Committee within the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD). Opeoluwa also works full-time as a Program Coordinator at the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, where he coordinates statewide advocacy referrals for deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians. Opeoluwa holds a law degree from the University of Illinois. He also holds a LL.M (Master of Laws) from the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C, where he graduated Cum Laude. Sotonwa's advice: Be exemplary, be courageous, and think out of the box and you will conquer the world.