

# Deaf Connect and Gallaudet University Join Forces to Empower International Deaf Community

*Deaf Connect, leading service provider and social impact organisation for Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing Australians partner with Gallaudet University.*

BRISBANE, QLD, AUSTRALIA, July 12, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Embargo – for release Thursday 13 July



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*Brett Casey, CEO at Deaf Connect*

[View the International Sign Language translation](#)

Deaf Connect, the leading service provider and social impact organisation for Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing Australians in conjunction with Gallaudet University, the world's premier university for the Deaf and hard of hearing community, are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking partnership.

The announcement was made public at a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signing ceremony at the Gallaudet University alumni event, on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at

Parnas Hotel Jeju, South Korea, during the XIX World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf. This collaboration aims to enhance access to education, foster inclusivity and promote the overall opportunities of Deaf individuals.

Through this multi-year partnership, Deaf Connect and Gallaudet University will work together on several key initiatives.

**Education and Training:** The institutions will collaborate on Immersion educational programs and training opportunities to equip Deaf individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in various fields to gain the “Gallaudet University experience”. By combining their expertise, both organisations will create innovative and tailored educational experiences that elevate the international Deaf community. There will be sharing of resources in specific domains such as youth, leadership, research, education, early intervention.



**Policy and Awareness:** Both organisations are committed to raising awareness about the challenges faced by the Deaf community and advocating for their rights. Through joint efforts, they will strive to influence policies and societal attitudes to create a more inclusive environment for Deaf individuals. This partnership will amplify their collective voice and empower them to bring about positive change.

**Community Engagement:** Deaf Connect and Gallaudet University, recognize the importance of community engagement and will collaborate on initiatives that foster social connections and support networks within the Deaf community through organising opportunities for employees and students including internships, study abroad tours, and Virtual Exchange / Collaborative Online International Learning, which aim to create opportunities for Deaf individuals to come together, share experiences, and build lasting relationships.

**Technology and Innovation:** The partnership will leverage technology and innovation to develop accessible solutions that enhance communication, education, and employment opportunities for the Deaf community. Gallaudet University's expertise in research and technology, coupled with Deaf Connect's on-the-ground experience and history, will drive the development of cutting-edge solutions that address the unique challenges faced by Deaf individuals.

**Global Leadership Events:** The parties began their partnership at the XIX World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf by Co-hosting a global leadership event prior to the 2023 WFD Congress in Jeju, South Korea, and follow-up events will be delivered. The launch event was host to many international attendees and was presented in International Sign Language.

Brett Casey, CEO at Deaf Connect, said, "This collaboration with Gallaudet University is a significant step towards creating a range of opportunities that equip and move us closer to an inclusive world for the Deaf community. By working together, our commitment will ensure that Deaf individuals have the resources and support they need to thrive and succeed."

"We are excited to partner with Deaf Connect and combine our strengths to empower the Deaf community," said Roberta Cordano, President at Gallaudet University. "Together, we can create a more inclusive society where Deaf individuals have equal access to education, employment, and opportunities for personal growth globally."

Deaf Connect and Gallaudet University are excited about the possibilities this partnership presents and are committed to driving positive change for the Deaf community.

Deaf Connect will be releasing content from the XIX World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube and our website.

Gallaudet University will be releasing content from the XIX World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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Media Opportunities Deaf Connect:

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Media Opportunities Gallaudet University:

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Deaf Connect offer interpreting services for Auslan representation across all media.

Interviews and comment are available from Mr Brett Casey, CEO Deaf Connect.

ABOUT DEAF CONNECT □

Deaf Connect is the largest whole-of-life service provider and social impact organisation for Deaf, Deafblind, and hard of hearing Australians. We stand with the Deaf community to build capacity and influence social change while paying respect to history, culture, and language. □ □

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Our focus is on community and empowerment, supporting Deaf Australians and their families to make choices and actions to thrive in life, while delivering on a national agenda to improve equity for the Deaf community, and to remove systemic cultural and language barriers. □

We are the largest employer of Deaf and hard of hearing people in Australia, a registered provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme and an approved provider of in-home care for seniors. Deaf Connect is the country's largest Auslan interpreting agency, and provides training in sign language and interpreting through our RTO (RTO Provider Number 41192).

For more information visit [www.Deafconnect.org.au](http://www.Deafconnect.org.au).

## ABOUT GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

Gallaudet University, located in Washington DC, USA, is the world's leading institution for Deaf and hard of hearing education, research, and innovation. For over 150 years, Gallaudet has been at the forefront of providing a transformative educational experience for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, empowering them to contribute to society as global citizens.

For more information visit [www.gallaudet.edu](http://www.gallaudet.edu)

## ABOUT THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

The World Federation of the Deaf is an international non-governmental organisation representing and promoting the human rights of more than 70 million deaf people globally since 1951. As a federation of national associations of deaf people (NADs) from 131 nations, the WFD is the authoritative representative body of deaf people worldwide. The WFD has consultative status at the UN ECOSOC and works in collaboration with partners around the world, including the International Disability Alliance, of which the WFD is a founding member.

[www.2023wfdjeju.com](http://www.2023wfdjeju.com)

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