

## **KU Edwards Campus American Sign Language and Deaf Studies Bachelor's Program Video**

*Visual description: Two women standing in front of a black background. Stacey Storme is on the left and Shannon Portillo is on the right. Stacey is a blonde, Caucasian woman with shoulder-length hair glasses, wearing a red dress and a blue sweater. Shannon is a dark-haired, Caucasian woman with shoulder-length curly hair, wearing a dark blue dress with red and blue flowers printed on it. Closed captions take up the bottom of the screen.*

Shannon: Hello, I'm Shannon Portillo, and I'm the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Programs at KU's Edwards Campus.

Stacey: Hello, I'm Stacey Storme and I am a Professor of Practice with the ASL and Deaf Studies Department at KU's Edwards Campus

Shannon: We're excited about our new program in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies. This builds off of the Associate of Arts with an emphasis in American Sign Language at Johnson County Community College, and it offers four tracks. The first is Advanced ASL. Students come in with ASL proficiency, and we bring them into ASL fluency. The second track focuses on Deaf Studies and Social Justice. This track is taught in ASL, but open to hearing individuals without ASL fluency. We also have a Becoming an Interpreter track for those new to interpreting, and a professional interpreting track, for experienced interpreters to refine their skills and focus in on specific interpreting areas.

Stacey: There are less than 35 Colleges and Universities across the United States that provide Bachelor's degrees in this area. We are thrilled to be among the first to offer this programming in the Midwestern part of the country.

Shannon: We've enjoyed our collaboration with Johnson County Community College in developing this program. It builds off of the 30 years of experience that Johnson County Community College has in American Sign Language and Interpreting Education. Part of that experience is evolving with the needs of the field, and one of those needs is now a bachelor's degree to sit for the national certification in interpreting. We're excited that we've built on the reputation of Johnson County Community College, and compare that with the Research One University and bachelor's degree at KU's Edwards Campus.

Stacey: One of the reasons we are thrilled about this new venture is because of the new opportunities that are now created for Advanced ASL learning that will provide students skills for direct communication and service with the Deaf community. With Johnson County Community College focusing their energy on quality foundational ASL and Deaf Culture learning and KU Edwards Campus providing advanced ASL and Interpreting education, students are no longer trying to learn ASL and interpreting skills simultaneously. This also provides opportunities for heritage and primary language users of ASL to pursue formal language learning and education. Lastly working interpreters can continue their education to enhance their skills and pursue a formal degree. We are thrilled about the positive impact we see these programs having on our communities.

Shannon: Applications are open today, so please reach out to your academic success coach and they can help you plan your individualized education plan into the bachelor's degree, our graduate certificates, or continuing education units. Rock Chalk!

*Visual description: Video fades from Stacey and Shannon to show the logos of both KUEC and JCCC against a white background. KU Edwards Campus logo is in blue text on the left, and on the right is the Johnson County Community College sunflower petal logo with yellow, green, and blue from right-to-left. A small copyright symbol with the year 2019 next to it sits at the bottom of the screen.*