

KU, JCCC American Sign Language and Deaf Studies Degree Announcement (With Visual Description)

Visual description: Video fades in from black to a white background with black text that reads: "A collaboration between KU Edwards Campus and Johnson County Community College. Bachelor's Degrees in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies." The logos of the two colleges are shown next to each other. On the left, it says KU Edwards Campus in large blue text with smaller text underneath saying University of Kansas. On the right, it says Johnson County Community College with the sunflower petal logo above it in yellow, green, and blue going from right to left.

Screen fades to show three people standing in front of a black background. Stacey Storme is on the left, Darryl Luton is in the middle, and Shannon Portillo stands on the right. Stacey is a blonde, Caucasian woman with shoulder-length hair and glasses, wearing a red dress and a blue sweater. Darryl Luton is a tall, Caucasian man with gray, short-cut hair and a beard, wearing a dark gray Carhartt shirt. Shannon is a dark-haired, Caucasian woman with curly shoulder-length hair, wearing a dark blue dress with red and blue flowers printed on it. Closed captioning takes up the bottom of the screen.

Hello, I am Stacey Storme. I will be a new Professor of Practice at KU's Edwards Campus in their ASL and Deaf Studies Department.

Hi, I am Darryl Luton. I am with the ASL Department at Johnson County Community College.

Hello, I'm Shannon Portillo. I'm the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Programs at KU's Edwards campus.

Visual description: Video cuts to view just Stacey.

Stacey: We are excited to announce Johnson County Community College and the KU Edwards Campus are partnering to offer a full bachelor's program in American Sign Language and Deaf studies – accepting students now for this fall! The program consists of four tracks. The first offers a focus on Deaf Studies and Social Justice. The second track is Advanced ASL. 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. Students will be able to take courses in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, take courses toward a graduate certificate, or even take courses as continuing education. Our goal is to meet a variety of students' needs by accommodating their specific circumstances. We are truly thrilled the program is official!

Thanks to JCCC for my recent sabbatical, during which we have worked closely with the Edwards Campus to make this happen, we are ready for launch!

Visual description: Video cuts from Stacey to view just Shannon.

Shannon: We've really enjoyed our collaboration with Johnson County Community College. JCCC had one of the first accredited programs in ASL and Interpreting, and over the past 30 years it's continued to evolve with the needs of the field. Now there's a bachelor's requirement to sit for the national certification, and in partnering with KU's Edwards Campus, there's a direct pathway to a bachelor's degree at a research one four-year institution. We're excited to maintain this collaboration as we build this program.

Visual description: Video cuts from Shannon to view just Darryl.

Darryl: Fewer than 35 bachelor's degree programs in ASL or ASL Interpreting exist in the United States and none directly serve our area. This degree launch will make a big impact on our robust Deaf and Interpreting communities by providing a variety of learning opportunities regarding ASL Studies or Interpreting. These courses will be open to Deaf individuals as well as hearing people and interpreters. We are truly excited about these opportunities!

Visual description: Video cuts from Darryl to view just Stacey.

Stacey: One of the most exciting aspects is that this new program allows students to build a solid foundation in ASL fluency at JCCC before moving on to advanced ASL learning. This will better equip students to explore their desire to pursue interpreting as a career choice. We're also excited to offer Deaf students and others who have grown up in the Deaf community advanced academic training in their heritage language.

I am grateful for the 30+ years of high-quality education in both ASL and interpreting. I consider myself blessed to have worked with an amazing team of faculty. I look forward to continued collaboration as I transition to KUEC full-time.

Visual description: Video cuts from Stacey to view just Shannon.

Shannon: This degree program provides a degree program that's vital for our workforce in the local community. We're excited to continue work with Johnson County Community College alumni, active interpreters, and the Deaf community. In addition to providing ASL and interpreter education, the certificates can be used alongside some of our other degree offerings at KU's Edwards Campus — including our Bachelors of Social Welfare, Psychology, our Law and Society degrees— this way professionals graduating from KU's Edwards Campus can provide direct communication to the Deaf community in our region.

Visual description: Video cuts from Shannon to view just Darryl.

Darryl: Moving forward, the ASL department at JCCC will remain and strengthen its focus on providing solid foundational education in ASL and Deaf Culture, rather than interpreting, for a smooth transition into the new programs at KU. Our ASL Studies Certificate is still available for interested students. You may earn an AA degree with an emphasis in ASL or transferring credits needed to pursue these advanced degrees. We will continue offering ASL classes as a foreign language.

We also provide ASL Proficiency Interviews (ASLPI) for incoming transfer students to help determine appropriate placement in our courses. In addition, we also offer Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) for students who have skills but have never taken coursework. This provides an avenue for getting credit for those skills.

Visual description: Video cuts from Darryl to view all three of them in the same order as before; Stacey on the left, Darryl in the middle, and Shannon on the right.

Stacey: The three of us are very excited to continue our work! It remains our primary goal to continue our long-standing practice of providing strong ASL, Deaf culture and interpreting education in Kansas.

Shannon: Johnson County Community College has been a leader in interpreter education in Kansas and Western Missouri for over 30 years, and we're excited to continue to move those efforts forward with their support at KU Edwards Campus. We're taking applications now, and the URL is at the bottom of your screen. Please check out our programs, and we're happy to put you in touch with an academic success coach who can help you plan your individual pathway through the bachelor's program, our graduate certificates, or continuing education. Rock chalk!

Visual description: As Shannon mentions the URL, white text with the URL to KU's ASL & Deaf Studies page appears on the screen. It reads: edwards-campus.ku.edu/asl-deaf-studies. After she has finished speaking, the screen fades to Johnson County Community College's logo against a white background. The same yellow, green, and blue sunflower petal logo with dark gray text of the college's name, with a small copyright symbol with the year 2019 next to it underneath.