

# GCC club will host advocates for deaf

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BATAVIA — In developing countries, at least 90 percent of deaf people do not go to school. That's according to Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW), a Rochester-based non-profit organization that's working to change that.

On Nov. 18, DDW co-founder David Justice and Executive Director Davin Searls will visit Genesee Community College. Their presentation, "Understanding Diversity of Language and Culture in the International Deaf Community," will begin at 4 p.m. in Room T119 of the Conable Technology Building.

Organized by GCC's American Sign Language (ASL) Club and Student Activities Board (SAB), the presentation is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served and voice interpreters will be available.

DDW began eight years ago through the efforts of Justice, who now serves as the organization's international programs director, and Christy Smith, who became a role model for the deaf community when she appeared in 2003 on CBS's "Survivor: The Amazon," coming in sixth place.

DDW partners with deaf advocates in developing countries. Working collaboratively, they seek to improve the standards of education, communication accessibility, employment opportunities and human rights for deaf people. DDW also researches and promotes pressing issues and success stories of deaf people in developing countries. It facilitates the exchange of information between deaf advocates, schools and institutions worldwide.

The organization has worked in more than a dozen countries, including Australia, China, India and Nepal. Current partnerships are in place in the Philippines and Costa Rica.



## DDW

Discovering Deaf Worlds partners with deaf advocates in developing countries to improve education, employment and human rights. The organization's co-founder and executive director will speak at Genesee Community College on Nov. 18. (Submitted photo)