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## Introduction to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

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ROBERT FRISINA, Ph.D.

It is an honor to have you visit the new campus of the Rochester Institute of Technology, the home of NTID. During the course of the day you will have an opportunity to meet with staff members and students in addition to visiting classrooms, laboratories, and studios.

NTID began admitting students 24 months ago and at present has 325 from 40 states and territories. Their average age is approximately 20 years; there are roughly 60 per cent male and 40 per cent female students; their average degree of deafness is approximately 100-105 dB; and as many come from residential school backgrounds as from day classes and schools.

NTID is in its interim period which will extend through the construction of facilities due to begin within the next few months. Its eventual population will include 750 deaf students and some 50 interns and students undergoing education and training to teach and in other ways work with deaf persons.

In order to accomplish its mission, NTID is organized into three divisions that work hand-in-hand. Each of the division directors will give a brief description of the activities carried out in his area. A discussion period will follow immediately after the three have presented.

In addition to this question and answer period the schedule allows for more specialized discussions during the sessions scheduled for this afternoon.

Again let me say how delighted we are that you are here. Through such visitations and discussions it is our hope that new modes of cooperation can be fashioned and strengthened so as to benefit the welfare of deaf citizens and thereby contribute to the furtherance of society at large.