Prosody in American Sign Language: The Icing on the Cake  
Presented by Leonard M. (Mike) Ernest  
.9 CEUs

**Workshop Description:** A nine hour workshop designed to identify and demonstrate the use of prosody in ASL. In spoken languages, native and near-native fluency are often marked by skill in prosodic variation. In this workshop, we will examine characteristics of native English speakers and ASL signers that are examples of prosody, rhythm and fluency.

In spoken languages, prosody refers to variations in rate, pitch, loudness, stress, intonation and rhythm of continuous speech. As it relates to fluency - the absence of prosody is perceived as monotonous and hesitant speech. Speech that is not rhythmic or prosodic is also characterized as unusually slow or fast, halting and lacking the normal rhythm and fluency of a native speaker.

In American Sign Language, prosody is a term that is used to refer to variations in facial markers, handshape, movement, rhythm and size of signs, and to movements of the torso, head and neck. These patterns of rhythm, stress and visual intonation are the equivalent of vocal and facial expression in English prosody, including physical variations in posture and body movement, the rate and direction of sign movement, sign tension and stress, increases and decreases in the size of sign production, variation in pacing and pauses, and repetition of signs

**Presenter Bio:** Leonard M. (Mike) Ernest was born in Eastern North Carolina. Since 1970, he has worked with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals as an audiologist, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, ASL Teacher, sign language interpreter, interpreter instructor, interpreter coordinator and community information and referral specialist. He was Program Coordinator of the East Carolina University Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students from 1976 to 1983.

Mike has BA degrees in English and Sociology from North Carolina State University, MA.Ed in Educational Audiology from East Carolina University and an MA in Linguistics from the University of South Florida. He also attended Gallaudet University as a visiting Ph.D. student in 1994-95, taking courses in ASL Linguistics, Deaf Culture, Cognitive Development and Language Acquisition in Deaf Children. He has an extensive background in Linguistics, Neurolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, Second Language Acquisition and Foreign Language Education.

Mike taught ASL, Interpreting, Deaf Culture and Linguistics courses at the college level for more than 35 years and retired in May 2005 after 20 years as Program Manager and Professor at the Hillsborough Community College Interpreter Training Program in Tampa, Florida. He previously held professional ASLTA Certification and was a co-founder of the Florida American Sign Language Teacher's Association. He has been a member of RID since 1974 and has been continuously certified since 1978. He holds an RID CSC, Oral interpreting certificate, NAD IV and Florida Educational Certification, Level III. Mike is currently or has been a member of NAD, ASLTA, CIT, RID and the North Carolina, Virginia and Florida Chapters of RID.

From May 2006 – March 2008, he worked for the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as an Outreach Specialist and as State Manager for Interpreter Service Programs. He is semi-retired and currently works as a freelance interpreter, workshop presenter and advocate/consultant in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Mike resides in Staunton, Virginia and has three sons: Alex, 22, Nicholas, 14 and Colin, 11, who keep him young!

**Workshop Details**

**When:** April 12-13, 2013  
**Where:** Auditorium, Main Building, NC School for the Deaf, Morganton, NC  
**Time:** April 12th 3-8 pm, April 13th 9 am-3 pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration Deadline:** March 5, 2013
Language of Presentation: This training will be conducted in spoken English and American Sign Language. Sign language interpreters will be provided for English to American Sign Language interpretation. Voice interpretation will not be provided. For other accommodations contact Rachael Ragin at email: rachael.ragin@dpi.nc.gov or Phone: (919)324-3890

Refund and Cancellation Policy: All refund requests must be in writing, the requests should be faxed or emailed to (Name); fax: or email: or phone:. A 10% administration fee and food costs will be assessed on ALL refunds. No refunds, except for medical emergencies, will be issued past (DATE). (workshop is free)

NCRID reserves the right to cancel within 30 days of the program, with a full refund to participants, due to low enrollment.

NCRID is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for Continuing Education Activities. This Professional/ General Studies program is offered for 0.9 CEUs at the selected Content Knowledge Level: ☐ Little/None  ✶ Some  ☐ Extensive  ☐ Teaching

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Phone Number:                                  Email:

Special Accommodations: