

Seeking Submissions for the 2019 Issue of Odyssey

THEME: Parent-School Advocacy



In the field of special education, advocacy is seen as a critical component to success in the educational setting. In the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center's *Critical Needs of Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: A Public Input Summary** (Szymanski, Lutz, Shahan, & Gala, 2013), parent advocacy was identified as the critical component necessary to support the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The question is how schools view advocacy and how individual families view advocacy and their role in the overall educational process. Do schools encourage and welcome parents as advocates? Do families advocate? Is advocacy impacted by cultural influences? Is there a cultural bias inherent in the idea that advocacy is something to be embraced by parents?

A parent's ability to advocate for his or her child who is deaf or hard of hearing requires knowledge and an understanding of special education laws as well as of their child's specific needs. There is concern that families who are disconnected, disengaged, and/or underserved may not have the knowledge, opportunity, and/or resources to advocate for their deaf or hard of hearing children.

The 2019 issue of *Odyssey* will focus on how schools, professionals, and families are working together to encourage parent advocacy for deaf and hard of hearing students. The Clerc Center seeks articles from parents and education professionals sharing their stories and experiences—the strategies they used, the challenges they faced, and the outcomes they achieved in their quest to gain necessary services and supports for their children or students.

We are particularly interested in articles about how schools and parents work together to achieve these goals as well as articles about the experiences of families who are from traditionally underserved groups, including those students who:

- are lower achieving academically
- come from families that speak a language other than English in the home
- are members of diverse racial or cultural groups
- are from rural areas
- have secondary disabilities

Please e-mail your ideas to Odyssey@gallaudet.edu. We will begin accepting submissions on June 1, 2018, and continue until October 5, 2018, or until the magazine reaches capacity. Contact us via e-mail at any time with questions or to discuss your ideas.

*<https://issuu.com/clerccenter/docs/publicinputsummary>

