



Member
Spotlight



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ESU's Jeffrey Weber

Work experience and personal interest has led an East Stroudsburg University professor to conduct research on the deaf and hard of hearing in Pennsylvania. Dr. Jeffrey Weber, assistant professor of public administration, wants to provide statistical data to the government and non-profit organizations to better serve the deaf and hard of hearing in Pennsylvania.

"The survey is important because of accessibility and ensuring equal opportunity for all people," said Weber.

In 2004, Weber was working on legislation as the Deputy Director of the Pennsylvania Senate Policy Development and Research Office to ensure the quality of sign language interpreters in the state when he realized there was a significant data gap. He was not able to project the impact of the legislation for the number of Deaf who use sign language interpreters and, no data existed on the number of hard of hearing, or of services provided.

Other non-profit organizations have attempted research related to this field, however none of which have been successful. Weber brainstormed ideas with other individuals on how to collect the data and conducted a cost analysis.

When Weber was hired in 2005 as an assistant professor of public administration at ESU and appointed by the Governor to the Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard

of Hearing, he was able to apply for funding of different grants for the study.

Weber received funding for \$9,000 in total. This enabled him to produce 5,000 mail surveys and, he piggy-backed on public forums that the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing were doing to conduct research.

Weber plans to complete the research report in 2008. "I am focused on is making the data meaningful and useable for those who provide the services to the deaf and hard of hearing," said Weber.

This study is a personal interest of Weber's as his hearing has deteriorated in recent years partly due to his 10 years of service in the Army. Weber's 12 years of experience as a staff member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly also motivated his study and contributes to the classroom.

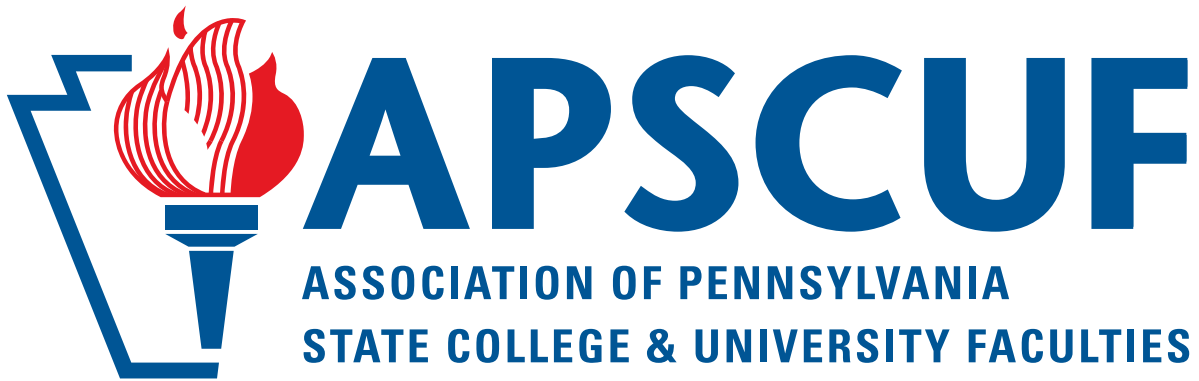
Weber states that his experience with the Pennsylvania General Assembly brings three invaluable lessons to the classroom:

"First, the experience helps me to help my students understand what a wonderful government they have. Secondly, it provides me with the ability to help my students understand that just because they disagree with someone, does not mean that they should read things into the other person's position or motivation for that position. Thirdly, it helps me convey to the students how difficult it is to solve these real world problems."

From his experience in the military, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and research of Deaf and hard of hearing, Weber makes an impact on students and contributes to the Political Science department at East Stroudsburg University.

"While the work in the General Assembly was a wonderful experience, I am finally fulfilling my passion of teaching full-time and nothing can compare to that," said Weber.

Weber has been an APSCUF member since his start at ESU in 2005. He has been elected to serve on the Sabbatical Leave committee and the Curriculum Committee. According to Weber, APSCUF faculty members have been wonderful in providing advice and guidance as he has begun his career in academics.



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