

A Bret Cummens, M.Ed.

American Sign Language Educator | Deaf Culture Scholar | Essayist

Academic Appointments

Colorado Mesa University – Grand Junction, CO

Instructor of American Sign Language | 2026–Present

Weber State University – Ogden, UT

Adjunct Instructor, American Sign Language & Deaf Culture

Concurrent Enrollment Liaison

ASL Club Advisor

2017–2026

William Woods University – Fulton, MO

Full-Time Instructor, American Sign Language & Deaf Culture

Hands Up Club Advisor

Tutor Supervisor

2006–2008

Central Washington University – Ellensburg, WA

Wenatchee Valley College – Wenatchee, WA

Full-Time Instructor, American Sign Language & Deaf Culture

ASL Club Advisor

Tutor Supervisor

2003–2006

Davis Technical College – Kaysville, UT

Adjunct Instructor, American Sign Language

2008–2015

Salt Lake Community College

Adjunct Instructor

ASL Placement Interviewer

ASL/Interpreter Training Program Tutor

2000–2003, 2021-present

Separate Professional Service

Robert G. Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Interpreter Rater and Tutor

2000–2026

Separate Non-Academic Employment
Internal Revenue Service
Labor Relations Specialist and Tax Examiner
2009–2026

Public Scholarship, Essays, and Community Outreach

Organization of Unique Learners (OULDDH)
Content Writer and Essayist
2025–Present

- Author essays on Deaf culture, ASL, language development, accessibility, Deaf education, and identity.
 - Produce educational and advocacy-oriented content for community audiences.
 - Contribute to the Community Connections Blog.
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ABCs By ABC: Deaf Culture
Founder, Author, and Editor
2018–Present

- Publish original essays and educational content focused on Deaf culture, ASL, accessibility, language acquisition, and community issues.
 - Facilitate community discussion and cultural education for Deaf and hearing audiences.
 - Develop long-form public scholarship bridging lived experience, teaching, and advocacy.
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Selected Publications and Essays

Deaf Culture & Language

- *Fluent in Failure: How Social Construction and Systemic Injustice Distort ASL Use Across Deaf and Hearing Communities*
- *The Hands Signed in Scars*
- *Language as an Identity*
- *Regional Signing*
- *The Myth of “Pure” ASL*
- *The Limitations of Dictionary-Based Learning in American Sign Language*
- *Deaf, Not a Decoder Ring*

Accessibility, Identity, and Education

- *Don’t Just Sign, Show Up*
- *The Quiet Bias: Why Deaf Excellence Gets Overlooked*
- *Language Gatekeeping Is Real*
- *Everybody Wants One Thing: To Be Understood*
- *The Many Lives of Survival*

Community Commentary and Cultural Analysis

- *The Rise of ASL Clout on TikTok*
- *Are Deaf Clubs Closed to Hearing People, or Simply Misunderstood?*
- *Walls Without Doors*
- *Social Obligation Insight*

Presentations and Workshops

Including:

- Solipsism in Communication
- Conference presentations
- Guest lectures
- Community trainings