

Sign language is in new OCC course

A course in sign language will be among the spring short course offerings of the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College. The course will meet from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and will run May 8 through June 13.

The class will provide training in American sign language, fingerspelling, exposure and practice in interpreting, and information on "Signlish" (signing exact English). Enrollment is limited to 25 students. There is a fee of \$30.

Instructor Linda Binkelman is an interpreter-teacher at the Southeast Oakland Vocational Education Center in Royal Oak. She holds degrees from Wayne and Michigan State universities. The course is designed for parents of hearing-impaired children and for students interested in careers in special education, audiology, speech therapy, law enforcement, psychology, religion,

and the medical field. "A six-week course in sign language will give participants enough training to communicate on a one-to-one basis in a most basic conversation," Ms. Binkelman said. "This experience will serve as a good foundation for those wishing to take additional courses for in-depth conversation."

Topics include total communication versus oralism, manual alphabet, and history of American Sign Language. Guest speakers from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and senior citizens groups will be featured. All sessions will include signing techniques, practice time, and evaluation of communication sentences. Information regarding a telephone for the deaf will be provided.

Registration information may be obtained by calling 476-9400, ext. 225.



LINDA BINKELMAN

Can't talk to doctor? Try this OU workshop

The scene is your doctor's examining room. There you are, flat on your back with your bare feet in the air. It's hard to ask questions from that position.

Talking with Your Physician, a workshop that deals with that kind of problem, will be held from 7-10 p.m. Monday, May 7, at the Continuum Center for Adult Counseling and Leadership Training in Rochester.

It will be led by Elinor Waters, director of the Continuum Center, and Ralph Cash, pediatrician and associate professor of pediatrics at Wayne State University.

"Patients must take away that holistic-thou-aura that surrounds a physician," Dr. Cash said. "This aura makes it difficult to ask the questions necessary to active participation in your health care."

"Patients should be more aware of and involved in the decision-making that goes with health care. It takes an informed consumer to make the best use of a doctor's recommendations."

The workshop grew out of a variety

of complaints expressed by men and women who have participated in other Continuum Center programs. "People often complain about their inability to communicate comfortably with a doctor," Waters said. "People can learn to ask better questions, be more assertive and gather information about their problem."

"Physicians don't check to see if they have been heard, and patients don't ask questions when they are in a position to listen to the answer. It's hard to feel equal when you are flat on the examining table. Patients may need to say 'I want to talk to you when I have my clothes on and my feet on the floor'."

The three-hour workshop will explore ways in which you can communicate more effectively with your doctor. Participants will raise communication problems, and solutions will be suggested to specific problems introduced.

For information and advance registration, contact the Continuum Center at Oakland University in Rochester or call 377-3053. The workshop fee is \$10.

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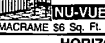


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