

**Date: Sept. 1, 2014**

## **The VRSII Welcomes New Faculty Member Teddi von Pingel**

**SALT LAKE CITY** - Teddi von Pingel officially joined the VRSII faculty Sept. 1, 2014. She has worked for the VRSII for the past two years as a core mentor in the School-to-Work Program.

von Pingel says she has enjoyed being a mentor to help people discover their own strengths and weaknesses, not by teaching, but by leading them on "their journey" and seeing them improve.



Teddi von Pingel  
VRSII faculty member

An interpreter for the past 25 years, von Pingel first became familiar with interpreting through a course she took at Brigham Young University. At that time, American Sign Language (ASL) did not fulfill language requirements at the university, so she stopped taking the courses. She later became fluent in ASL while serving a religious mission.

von Pingel holds a bachelor's degree in deaf studies with interpreting emphasis from Utah Valley University (UVU) and is currently working toward her master's degree in ASL/English interpreting with a concentration in interpreting pedagogy. The master's degree program is offered through a partnership between the VRSII and the University of North Florida <http://www.unf.edu/coehs/edie/vrsii/>. von Pingel says she is looking forward to exploring research-based learning through the master's program. "My passion is the soft skills of interpreting: inter- and intra-personal skills," says von Pingel. "I'm excited to infuse that learning into interpreting programs."

After moving to Utah from Arizona eight years ago, von Pingel served with interpreters on the board of the Utah chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, on long-term projects and in community interpreting. These interpreters would later become faculty members at the VRSII. It was through these affiliations that von Pingel learned about the opportunities at the VRSII.

"I'm a believer of the adage, 'You never know who you're going to meet or why that person will be important to you,'" says von Pingel. She says becoming involved with the VRSII seemed a good way to explore new opportunities and meet new people.

von Pingel still works for UVU part time, but says she enjoys the speed with which new directions and ideas can be incorporated into curriculum in a corporate setting. "Being partnered with a corporation, there are fewer 'hoops' to jump through," she says. "We're immediately able to creatively design and implement programs. I have a strong feeling of accomplishment here because I can execute changes quickly."

The strength of the VRSII, von Pingel believes, is the faculty. "Our expertise, experience, diversity and creativity make us strong," she says. "I think we're a great team."

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