

Hello, What's Up!

Today, I want to talk about your future career. With so many job possibilities out there, you could become an engineer, a teacher, an accountant, a business manager—even own your own business, a school superintendent, or a lawyer. Nowadays in 2017, there are so many types of careers to choose from, the possibilities are endless! Back when I was young, we had such limited choices. We could either go into business, become a teacher, or become a scientist. That's not the case these days. You have so many choices. It is a very exciting time for you!

The next thing I want to talk with you about is Deaf superintendents of Deaf schools. I did some research and the results were very interesting. Can you guess how many Deaf superintendents running Deaf schools there are in the entire United States? Take a guess! I found approximately 64 Deaf school in the United States. (There are many more Deaf programs, but there are 64 Deaf schools.) The answer is 24 Deaf superintendents who lead Deaf schools. That means there are 40 hearing superintendents most of whom can sign and are supportive. Back in the old days, we had more Deaf superintendents—about 25 to 30. Then the numbers went down; six or seven years ago, there were only about 15 Deaf superintendents. Now the numbers are on the rise again. It is an exciting time! Meaning that for those of you who are motivated to become a Deaf superintendent, there is the opportunity to move up into that position.

The last thing I want to discuss with you today is becoming a lawyer. What exactly does a lawyer do? A lawyer has the ability to interpret and explain the letter of the law; be a good debater; and defend your rights. There are currently approximately 250 Deaf lawyers in the United States. When I was young, there were somewhere between 15 – 30 Deaf lawyers. That number has increased exponentially as more and more Deaf people are motivated to become lawyers. I was interested in the history of Deaf lawyers and wanted to find out who the first Deaf lawyer was. Can you guess who that first Deaf lawyer was? A friend of mine just happened to have the answer! The first Deaf lawyer was Joseph Parkinson back in 1880. Then in the 1950s, there were two Deaf lawyers: Harold Diamond and Lowell Myers. Nowadays we have many Deaf lawyers! Maybe you will become a Deaf lawyer.

It is exciting for you to start contemplating your future career. Will you become a lawyer, the next Deaf superintendent, a scientist, or perhaps a moviemaker? Discuss it with your class. Remember, Deaf Can!