

## TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Texas School for the Deaf Announces Collection of “Deaf Smith” Educational Resources

**Austin, Texas – January 6, 2014** – The Educational Resource Center on Deafness (ERCOD) at Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) proudly announces the **Deaf Smith Collection** - an educational series that includes lesson plans, videos, and resources focusing on Erastus "Deaf" Smith - famous spy, scout and soldier of the Texas Revolution.

The first unit, available now, includes lesson plans, performances, publications, and other materials introducing learners to Deaf Smith, featuring the 1985 stage play “Deaf Smith, The Great Texian Scout”.

This comprehensive collection was developed by Dr. Steve Baldwin who is an avid Deaf Smith enthusiast, author, and retired educator from TSD. In 2013, Baldwin was recognized by the Texas Governor’s Committee on People Disabilities with a Barbara Jordan Media Award (BJMA) for his exhibit at the Texas capitol which celebrated the 225<sup>th</sup> birthday of Deaf Smith in 2012.

“We expect that this collection will be a valuable learning tool for high school and middle school students-both deaf and hearing”, says Baldwin, “also to those learning American Sign Language, for interpreter training programs, and others in schools and programs interested in learning more about Deaf Smith and his contributions to Texas history”.

“Deaf Smith’s contributions”, adds Baldwin, “underscore the fact that people with disabilities played a vital role in making Texas what it is today.”

The full Deaf Smith Collection is free and available to the public and on the ERCOD website. To learn more, visit: [Info.TexasDHHResources.org/DeafSmith](http://Info.TexasDHHResources.org/DeafSmith).

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### ABOUT THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (TSD)

The Texas School for the Deaf is the oldest continuously operating public school in Texas. Educating deaf and hard of hearing students of Texas since 1856, the campus also provides outreach and educational resources for students, their families and professionals in the field throughout the state of Texas. With educational excellence and a strong belief in a culture and community at TSD, students form a unique identity based on their individual strengths and talents. TSD is an environment where students learn, grow, and belong. For more information about the Texas School for the Deaf, visit <http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/>.

### ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON DEAFNESS (ERCOD) AT TSD

The Educational Resource Center on Deafness brings the resources of the Texas School for the Deaf to the students of Texas who are deaf and hard of hearing. ERCOD works collaboratively with a variety of agencies, programs, and schools across the state, to create a network of information, services, and support designed to meet the unique needs of students who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as supporting their families, and professionals all throughout Texas. For more, visit <http://www.texasdhhresources.org/>.