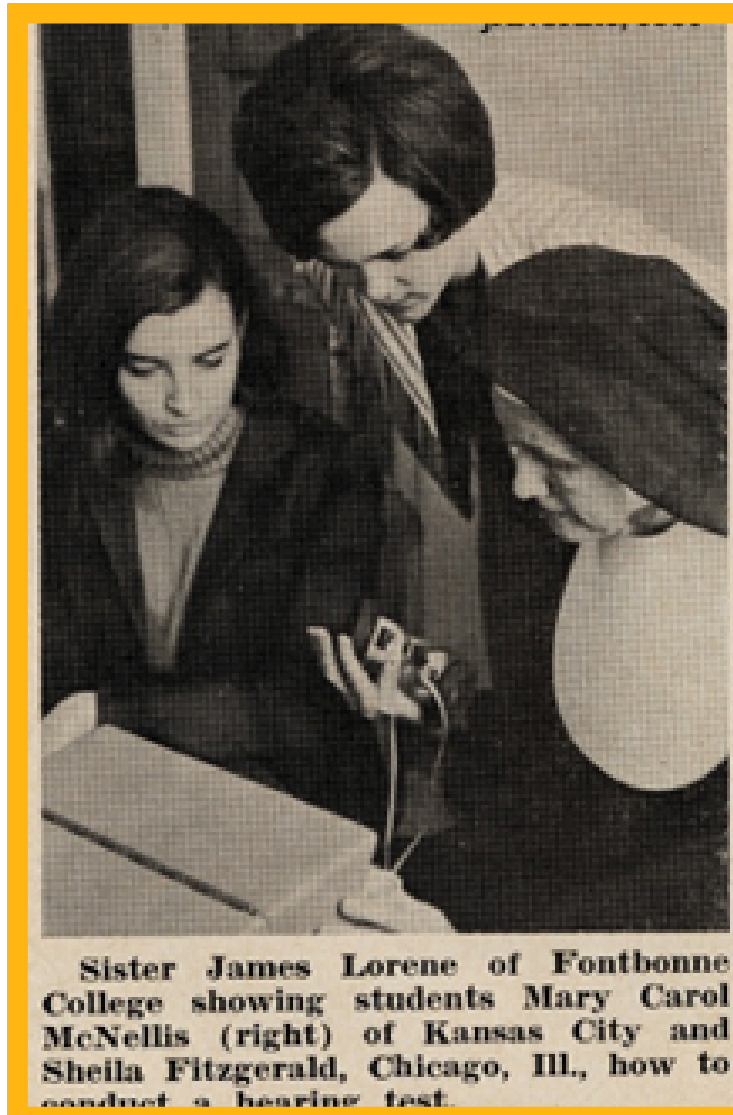


## Personnel Preparation: Past, Present, Future

Jenna Voss, PhD, CED, LSLS Cert AVEd

For 30 years, Early hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs in the US have given infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing an early opportunity to learn to listen, talk and thrive at home and in their educational settings. But this success is dependent on highly skilled therapists and educators. The graduates of Fontbonne's program have been instrumental in the teaching a myriad number of children how to overcome the impact of a hearing loss. Fontbonne's program has fulfilled the intent of EHDI; sustaining the program will serve to promote positive outcomes for more children to learn to listen and talk.

Arlene Stredler Brown, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Director, The Keystone Project



Sister James Lorene of Fontbonne College showing students Mary Carol McNellis (right) of Kansas City and Sheila Fitzgerald, Chicago, Ill., how to conduct a hearing test.



### Signature Program Features

- Research-based coursework to promote development of listening and spoken language through auditory based interventions
- Commitment to collaboration and interprofessional practice
  - early childhood education
  - special education
  - speech-language pathology
  - audiology
- Curriculum adapting to changing needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and families
  - school based deaf education
  - family-centered early intervention
  - inclusive educational settings
  - summer/enrichment programming
- Diverse and high-quality field experiences through varied partnerships, including University Program membership in OPTION Schools International
- The program has been accredited by the Council on Education of the Deaf (CED) for more than 40 years.

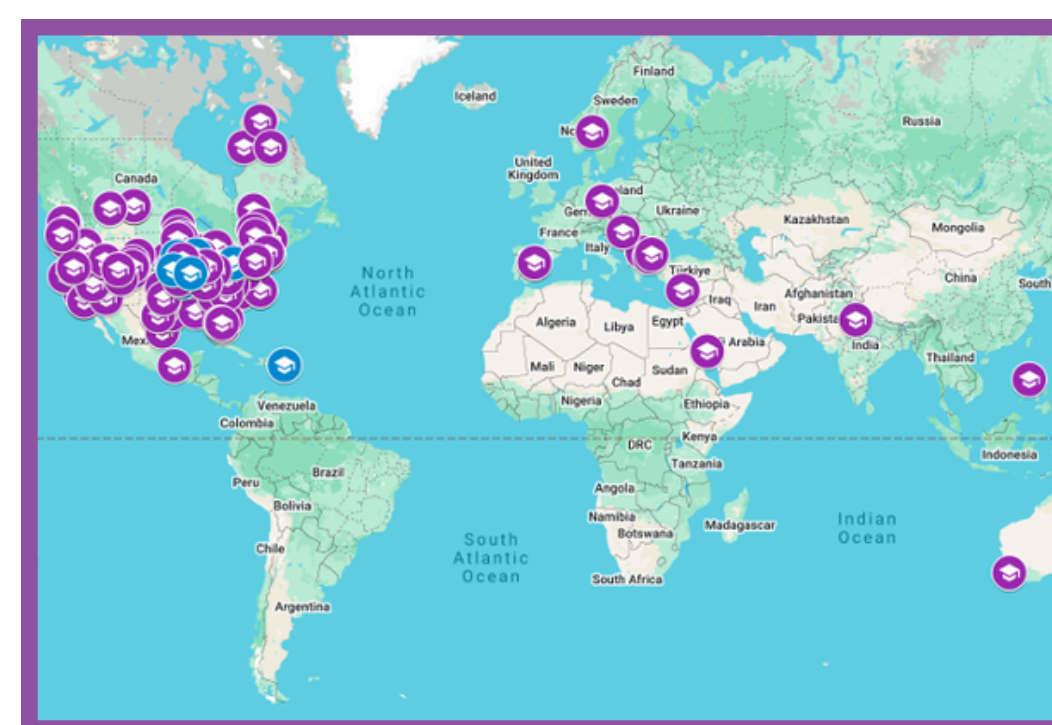


OPTION



### Impact & Legacy

- Between 1963 and 2024 Fontbonne has graduated more than 600 students, across three degrees:
  - BA Deaf Education (392+),
  - MA Early Intervention in Deaf Education (106+),
  - MA Deaf Education (inclusion) (49+);
- Interprofessional collaborative projects have prepared more than 32 speech-language pathologists (SLPs) with an emphasis in deafness.
- Over 35 graduates from Fontbonne's Communication Disorders and Deaf Education (CDDE) programs have completed the rigorous requirements to earn the Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS) certification from the AG Bell Academy.
- Global Impact - While many of Fontbonne's deaf education graduates teach in the St. Louis region, Missouri, and the Midwest, graduates have been employed in deaf education in more than 40 states and several countries in public and private settings. International students from India, South Africa, Germany, Spain, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Macao, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Canada have graduated from the deaf education program.



- Innovative pedagogies to meet demand
  - synchronous online instruction
  - global recruitment



- Developing Leaders - A number of graduates are in leadership positions in public and private, early childhood and secondary programs. Others are employed in university personnel preparation programs.



- **1923** - Fontbonne University is a Catholic university founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1923.
- **1960** - Deaf Education at Fontbonne begins in partnership with St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf
- **1964** - Sr. James Lorene begins as Program Director
- **1963-1975** The deaf education program received funding from the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare that provided scholarships, equipment and salaries. Sister James Lorene Hogan used the funding to support seniors in the program and to purchase video equipment so that students could film and critique their teaching.
- **1994** - Dr. Susan Lenihan assumes leadership as Program Director
- **1996-2014** - SJI Professional Development School received funding of approximately \$50,000 to support professional development and program evaluation.
- **2000-2015** Oberkotter Foundation generously supported the CDDE personnel preparation programs with more than \$5.56 in awarded funds.
- **2001** - In response to universal newborn hearing screening, started a graduate program in Early Intervention in Deaf Education to focus on meeting the needs of young children and families.
- **2008-2009** - SOCIOS ADIS Costa Rica - Deaf Education students and faculty visit Costa Rica to build a resource library, provide community hearing screenings, and observe listening and spoken language intervention for DHH children.
- **2008** - The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), through the 325K Personnel Preparation Projects, have consistently provided student support since 2008. Faculty have been awarded more than \$8.25 million in federal funding to support nearly 200 scholars in these programs.
- **2012** - Dr. Paula Gross launches Camp FIRE (Fontbonne Ignites Reading Excitement), offering summer literacy camp for DHH learners, annually through 2024.
- **2015** - First synchronous online program- Fontbonne Clarke Northeast Collaborative (pilot) launches. In partnership with the Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech and Dan Salvucci created a graduate program in deaf education for students in the Northeast.
- **2018** - Dr. Jenna Voss begins serving as Program Director
- **2019** - Math Lab STL - STEM focused summer camp for DHH learners, led by Amanda Dunaway.
- **2023** - First remote graduate deaf education scholar from India
- **2025** - An additional 22 students are on track to complete their deaf education degrees by May 2025! Fontbonne will close permanently in August.
- **2026** - New opportunities to carry on the legacy!

