

**A Narration of the Black Deaf Community:
Black American Sign Language, Culture, and History**

The segregation of schools in the American South in the 19th and 20th centuries contributed to the growth of Black American Sign Language (BASL), a dialect of American Sign Language. Today, young influencers across the country are using social media platforms such as TikTok and Twitter to preserve BASL. You can learn about BASL through this [informative video](#) as well as this [recent article](#). Take a moment to [learn how to fingerspell the word exit](#).

The CRLS American Sign Language program has been incorporating BASL into our curriculum this year. We invite all CRLS community members to join us on **February 23rd from 7PM-8PM** for a webinar to learn more about Black American Sign Language. Chris Johnson, whose biography is included below, is a well known presenter and leader in the study of BASL, and he is looking forward to introducing CRLS to BASL.

Please use this link to join the presentation: <https://zoom.us/j/92628418267>

Christopher Johnson



Chris Johnson (known as CJ in the Deaf community) graduated with a degree in Sports Management from the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia. Upon completing his undergraduate studies in 2013, Johnson decided to pursue his journey in the Deaf world; he gained his first great sense of identity, academically and socially, through his employment

experience at several deaf institutions. Chris, a Black deaf cisgender male, who is passionate about advocating d/Deaf youth and adults. Mr. Johnson's toughness of spirit is reflected through his servant, empirical, and organizational leadership; his purpose-driven and visionary leader with forward-influenced plans are not limited to 1) currently instructing at the University of Minnesota; 2) serving as an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated; 3) a founding member for the Cup of Wisdom Club at Tennessee School for the Deaf-Knoxville (from 2016-2018); 4) formerly served as a chairperson of Dr. Glenn B. Anderson Scholarship Program (from 2018 to 2020); 5) currently serving as a member of the Board of Advisors at the Center for Black Deaf Studies; 6) current serving as a board member for American Sign Language Honor Society; 7) currently serving as an MNCDHH (Minnesota Commission for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing) Awards Committee member; and 7) currently in training to become a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI).

For additional information please contact:



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