

## **Tips for Hearing Person to Communicate with Person who has a Hearing Loss**

### ***Set Your Stage***

- Face person directly.
- Spotlight your face (no backlighting).
- Avoid noisy backgrounds.
- Get attention first.
- Ask how you can facilitate communication.
- When audio and acoustics are poor, emphasize the visual.

### ***Get the Point Across***

- Don't shout.
- Speak clearly, at moderate pace, not over-emphasizing words.
- Don't hide your mouth, chew food, gum, or smoke while talking.
- Re-phrase if you are not understood.
- Use facial expressions, gestures.
- Give clues when changing subjects or say "new subject."

### ***Establish Empathy with Your Audience***

- Be patient if response seems slow.
- Talk to a hard of hearing person, not about him or her to another person.
- Show respect to help build confidence and have a constructive conversation.
- Maintain a sense of humor, stay positive and relaxed.

## **Tips for the Person with Hearing Loss to Communicate with Hearing People**

### ***Set Your Stage***

- Tell others how best to talk to you.
- Pick your best spot (light, quiet area, close to speaker).
- Anticipate difficult situations, plan how to minimize them.

### ***Do Your Part***

- Pay attention.
- Concentrate on speaker.
- Look for visual clues.
- Ask for written cues if needed.
- Don't interrupt. Let conversation flow to fill in the blanks and gain more meaning.
- Maintain a sense of humor, stay positive and relaxed.

### ***Establish Empathy with Audience***

- React. Let the speaker know how well he or she is conveying the information.
- Don't bluff. Admit it when you don't understand.
- If too tired to concentrate, ask for discussion later.
- Thank the speaker for trying