

# WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION?

## FOR STARTERS, SO DEAF AND HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILDREN HAVE THE SAME QUALITY EDUCATION AS HEARING CHILDREN.

The Department of Education (ED) research programs are dedicated to promoting student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence. Boston University receives \$5.7 million in research grants from ED to further our understanding of how students learn, and to ensure equal access to education throughout the world.

### ■ NOT ALL LANGUAGE TESTS ARE CREATED EQUAL. YET.

Although there are many assessments for evaluating the language skills of hearing children, no comparable assessments of American Sign Language for educational use are currently available for deaf children, whose language input is often impoverished and inconsistent. A grant-funded research project led by Boston University seeks to develop the American Sign Language Assessment Instrument (ASLAI). Modeled on tests for spoken language development and tests of reading achievement, the ASLAI is intended to measure conversational abilities, academic language knowledge, and metalinguistic skills.

### ■ THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER—BRINGING CONTINENTS TOGETHER.

As Africa increasingly becomes a larger part of the world economy, it has become more important than ever for Americans to gain a better understanding of African people, cultures, languages, and histories. The African Studies Center (ASC) at Boston University is doing all of that and then some. The ASC is federally funded under Title VI as a National Resource Center to promote language and area studies in Africa. The ASC provides a starting point in African studies to university professors, economists, health workers, military personnel, government officials, development personnel, diplomats, and numerous others.

### ■ A NEW DAY FOR ARTHRITIS RESEARCH AND TRAINING.

Boston University's Dr. Julie Keysor was awarded a grant to establish the new Arthritis Rehabilitation Research & Training Center, titled the Center for Enhancing Activity & Participation among Persons with Arthritis (ENACT), under the auspices of the Education Department's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The center is engaged in research and community outreach programs to enhance the base of knowledge among practitioners and people with arthritis about ways to remain physically active, employed, and engaged in community activities. According to Dr. Keysor, "Our research activities have the potential to change the paradigm of current rehabilitation intervention for persons with arthritis and rheumatic conditions."

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We hope you'll give strong consideration to supporting research funding for the US Department of Education. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further the role the ED plays in our daily lives, please visit [bu.edu/federal](https://bu.edu/federal).



THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER (ASC) AT **BOSTON UNIVERSITY** IS PROMOTING LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES IN AFRICA.