

2025 IAD Biennial Conference Keynote Speaker



Angela (Gargac) Botz is a dedicated leader, artist, and civil rights advocate with a lifelong commitment to empowering the Deaf, DeafBlind, and disability communities at both state and national levels. Since 2008, she has served as Community Outreach Coordinator and Independent Living Specialist at IMPACT Center for Independent Living in Alton, Illinois.

Angela has held key leadership roles, including two terms as president of the Illinois Association of the Deaf (2011–2015) and founder of Show-Me Accessible Health Care, Inc. (2012–2015). She currently chairs the Illinois Statewide Deaf Services Coordinators for INCIL and co-chairs both its Advocacy Committee and the Illinois Telecommunications Access Program (ITAP).

In 2025, she received the Excellence in State Advocacy Award from the Hearing Loss Association of America for her statewide efforts in accessibility and inclusion.

A solopreneur and artist, Angela has run her own art business since 2012 and previously worked as Art Director at Picturesque Graphics. She continues to stay active as a museum docent for DEAF, Inc.

Outside of her professional work, Angela values time with her husband, Bill, her mother, and loved ones. Her decades of advocacy and creativity have made a lasting impact on communities across Illinois and beyond.