

**Recent Alumni Recognition Award Interview**  
**2017 Recipient**  
**Dawn Baker, Class of '05**

**Q: How did you choose CIU?**

One of the Chaplains where I was serving in the Air Force graduated from CIU and told me I should apply. So I did!

**Q: What impacted you during your time at CIU?**

**A:** CIU has wonderful godly faculty and staff working there. They know you by name, your likes and dislikes, they will stop and listen to you, give sound advice and pray with you. They treat you as your brother or sister in Christ and not just another number to fill a seat.

I also learned during my time there that the Deaf are one of the least reached people groups-WHAT!?! Romans 10:14-15: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

**Q: What did you do after you graduated from CIU?**

**A:** I was planning to become a missionary to El Salvador to teach at the Christian School for the Deaf. While I was raising support, I worked as a Teacher Assistant for a Deaf Education class and an Educational Interpreter for the Deaf.

**Q: What you do now?**

**A:** I never went to El Salvador and that's fine with me. I got my Masters in Deaf Education and I am currently teaching 2nd-5th grade Deaf and Hard of Hearing Elementary Students in my home town. I have the best job in the world! During my Communication internship in El Salvador, God placed in my heart something amazing and that is the love for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I get to teach children and teach them to have a language. I get to help break a language barrier, bridge language gaps and tell them that they aren't stupid or weird because they use their hands to communicate or because they have something in their ear-but they are designed perfectly. My students come to school thirsty to learn-it is at school, they have peers who can communicate with them and teachers who understand them. It is a lot of work, but it is truly rewarding when you hear them advocate for themselves, express themselves appropriately and to finally get a concept that we have been going over for months it seems like. This is one profession you really have to be in long enough to see progression and when you do...it is magical.

**Q: Your advice/encouragement to CURRENT STUDENTS?**

**A:** Don't give up. You don't have to go to an indigenous country to be a missionary. God will use you where you are.

**Q: Your advice/encouragement to ALUMNI?**

**A:** Stay focused on what is truly important.

**Q: Prayer Requests?**

**A:** (1) I want to be the wife and mom, my husband and kids need. (2) I teach a wide range of kids. Some are still 3-4 year behind with both receptive and expressive language. I want to be able to meet each of their needs for them to grow academically and emotionally.