

February 9, 2024

It's hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago we were shoveling snow! Sara Sosa from Mitchell sent the artistic snap on the left and Stacey Con from Lexington the city view with the beautiful blue sky on the right.



Upcoming state holidays: None in March. 😞

Stop by and say hello: You can usually find me in my office (#1216) at the State Capitol in Lincoln where you're always welcome! Just please let me know if you're going to stop by so I can make sure I'm not in a meeting – I would hate to miss you! Here are some other locations you can find me in the upcoming month:

- March 13th Lancaster County Courthouse
- March 19th Douglas County Courthouse
- March 22nd Sarpy County Courthouse

Court and Probation staff education: Training court and probation staff on language access and the correct use of interpreters falls under the Language Access Program's scope of responsibilities. We do this in several different ways - I provide education for new judges, new clerk magistrates, and new chief probation officers along with presenting at annual staff conferences. The Operations Team provides just in time training on a daily basis when issues arise as well as attending local meetings to educate staff on our services. The Judicial Branch also has computer-based training for all new court and probation staff. This is on-going work that will never be done because staff retire, new staff are hired, and our translation and interpretation industry evolves.

Interpreter Certification Pathway:

Orientation was held January 25th & 26th and the attendees were a microcosm of the communities the Nebraska Judicial Branch serves on a daily basis. Here's a breakdown by the numbers:

- 24 attendees: employees, current interpreting partners, and aspiring interpreter partners
- 8 languages: Arabic, Burmese, Karen, Kurdish, Mam, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese
- 2 states: Nebraska and Texas
- 7 NE counties: Douglas, Hall, Hamilton, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, and Sarpy

Check out some of the great feedback we received:

- The course was great, and I learned so many things I didn't know. Definitely made me want to continue to get certified.
- The information was very useful, and I feel I am more prepared. I also feel that interpreting is not necessarily a talent but more of a skill you can build. There are many techniques and tricks to help you get the job done in a professional way.
- So much information packed into the two days – good preparation!
- I really liked all the information that was provided, how interactive the course was, examples and tips given.

Where are YOU on your journey to certification or provisional certification? If you're not sure, ask me!

You must attend General Orientation if:

- You've never attended before.
- You attended 3+ years ago and didn't take OR pass the written exam.

You must take the written exam if:

- You attended Orientation less than 3 years ago but didn't take OR pass the written exam.

I will hold additional Zoom informational sessions for you to learn what your next steps are:

- February 21st at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- February 27th at 4pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Interpreter Statements:

In January I only spent 22 hours following up with interpreters on their Statements – THANK YOU! That is down 24% from an average of 29 hours/month. Let's keep decreasing this number!

LB846: On February 8th, the Appropriations Committee heard testimony on [LB864](#). Senator George Dungan, State Court Administrator Corey Steel, and interpreter partners testified in support. There was no testimony in opposition to the bill. The bill, if passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, appropriates \$600,000 for FY2023-2024, which will allow the Judicial Branch to maintain the current interpreter rates at \$50 for Non-certified, \$60 for Registered, and \$75 for Certified interpreters. If you would like to submit written comments you may do so by clicking [HERE](#).

Professional Resources:

- American Pie list of 2024 courses attached
- 17 legal language glossaries have been posted under the Lending Library tab of the [Interpreter Certification Pathway](#). Check out the English/ASL one that has videos for each entry!
- [Nebraska Judicial Branch Annual Report](#)
- [Chief Justice Gives Annual State of the Judiciary Address to the Legislature](#)

Recognitions: Recognitions go a long way and carry us through the hard times. If you have a teammate that you would like to recognize, please email it to me so I can feature it in an upcoming communication!

- ✚ **Adrian - You manage a talented, wonderful, amazing group of people.** They **always** come with a smile and cheerful disposition (even when I call at the last minute). We couldn't do it without them (or YOU)!! **THANK YOU !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** – *Lynette Coleman, Douglas County District Court*
- ✚ **Constanza Meier** – Thank you for your willingness to reschedule hearings that were cancelled last minute because of the freezing weather in Omaha. – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter coordinator*
- ✚ Hi Kathleen, Just wanted to tell you thank you (**Kari Corkle** actually made the arrangements) for your work arranging for Somali interpreters for my jury trial this week! The interpreters (**Mascuud Xaanji** and **Abdulazziz Shiekh**) were excellent. They were professional, knowledgeable, and accommodating. The trial went along very well without any issues related to interpreter services. I really appreciate your efforts on this! Take care. - *Bruce J. Prenda, Colfax County Attorney*
- ✚ I would like to point out that she (**Mai Nguyen**) was FANTASTIC yesterday dealing with the defendant in this case. - *Dedra Little, Bailiff, Lancaster County District Court*
- ✚ **Jawaid Kotwal** did amazing thank you 😊 - *Lisa Farringer, Judicial Assistant, Lancaster County Court*
- ✚ **Norma Olivas** came to my rescue when looking for a Spanish interpreter with limited time to secure one. – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Good afternoon, **Mr. Sajjad Hamadani** – thank you once again for your excellent help with this traffic trial. Have a wonderful day. - *Michele Woods, Clerk Magistrate, Kimball County Court*
- ✚ I think **all of the Interpreters** are fabulous. Thank you for all you do. - *Katie Chonis, Bailiff, Douglas County District Court*
- ✚ I have NOTHING but praise to sing about all the interpreters who work with us. **Adrian Hinojosa** you are so on top of the schedule and so professional and kind, as are **all your employees**. I truly love working with each interpreter who comes into our courtroom. You are all so very appreciated! - *Lesley Boulton, Bailiff, Douglas County District Court*
- ✚ Thank you to our team **Kari Corkle, Adrian Hinojosa, and Olivia Brockman** for holding down the fort while Kathleen and I attended Orientation. – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ I would like to say that **all the interpreters** that have appeared in our courtroom this last month have been on time, extremely knowledgeable and an absolute pleasure to work with. - *Shelly Lanouette, Bailiff, Douglas County District Court*

Tax Documents: State Accounting mailed out the 1099s on January 31st. The minimum amount an individual needs to earn to receive a 1099 is \$600. If you have questions or did not receive your 1099, you can reach them directly at (402)471-2581.

Did you know?

Courtesy of Gulie Khalaf, Kurdish interpreter: Kurdish is a minority language and nearly 70% of the population is unable to read and write in the language. Those who do, do not use the same script. There are three different scripts used when writing. As a minority, Kurdish speakers like myself had to become literate in a second language to communicate with others.

If you have questions on any of this content, please feel free to reach out to me. I hope to hear from a lot of you around the Interpreter Certification Pathway.

American Pie Seminars

2024-2025 Continuing Education Program Courses

Instructor-led live scheduled 2024 webinars

WebBuzz.8	Buzzin' Trends	Jun 4 & Sept 24	3 hours
WebLex.8	Lex/Leges Decoded	Jun 25 & Oct 22	3 hours
WebEthics.8	Our Guidelines... and Scenarios	Jul 9 & Nov 5	3 hours
WebRx.8	Rx in Plain Speak	Jul 23 & Nov 19	3 hours
WebVocab.8	Our Ever Morphing English!	Aug 6 & Dec 3	3 hours

Non-instructor led self-paced on-demand seminars

CyberVocab.8	3 hours
CyberBuzz.8	3 hours
CyberRx.8	3 hours
CyberRx.8 (a)	1 hour
CyberLex.8	3 hours
CyberMix.8	3 hours
CyberEnEspañol.8	3 hours
CyberEthics.8	3 hours
CyberEthics.8(a)	1 hour