

May 14, 2024

April showers bring May flowers and I'm enjoying the explosion of blooms in my garden and the many houses and businesses I walk and drive by! We're always rushing here in Language Access, but it would do us all good to slow down, look around, be present, and appreciate the beauty around us!

Upcoming state holidays

- June 19th Juneteenth

Stop by and say hello

Each month I seem to meet an interpreter or two and it's definitely one of the most rewarding parts of my job! Stop by the office or you might see me in a courtroom or hallway – if you do, stop me, and introduce yourself!

- June 12th Lancaster County Courthouse
- June 18th Douglas County Courthouse
- June 28th Sarpy County Courthouse

District 5 Probation

Kari and I were invited out to present at D5's staff meeting. We covered language access law history, NSC Rules, LAP's role, the process to request interpreters, being comfortable with all modalities, translations, block scheduling, Interpreter Statements, and remote confirmations. Whew – it was a lot in a short amount of time, but we were graciously received and were able to put faces with names! Education is a big part of our job, and it will be on-going work. My personal goal is to educate in order to remove barriers and issues so you all can do what you do best – interpret!



Interpreter Appreciation Day

96 individuals registered for *A Legal Encounter A to Z: A Guide to Professionalism* – AMAZING! We received good feedback and hope to make free educational offerings a yearly event.



Interpreter Certification Pathway

We had a record-breaking Orientation attendance of 34 individuals in May! It appears that having a remote Orientation and being able to take it to the people is working as demonstrated through the cohort's diversity:

- 34 attendees comprised of current and aspiring interpreter partners.
- 13 languages: Arabic, Burmese, Ewe, French, Karen, Korean, Kurdish, Nepali, Nuer, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- 2 States: NE and IA
- 10 NE counties: Colfax, Dawson, Douglas, Hall, Holt, Kimball, Lancaster, Platte, Sarpy, and Stanton

A much anticipated 2-day remote Skill Building session is scheduled for July 18th & 19th. This is a MUST for anyone who plans to take the oral exam or a great refresher and way to earn CEUs. Don't be left out on this or any other part of the Interpreter Certification Pathway! Join our upcoming informational session to find out what the buzz is all about!

Wednesday, May 29th at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Language Access trip to Guatemala

Team members traveled to Guatemala (okay the Guatemalan Consulate in Omaha but it's considered foreign soil!) recently to discuss our shared goal of access to justice and the need for local indigenous language interpreters. All stakeholders were engaged and excited at what our combined resources can accomplish. This was the first of what I hope is a long and sustained partnership as we all work to educate LEPs, attorneys, and the Judicial Branch on the many indigenous languages and cultural norms of the many cultures involved.



Professional Resources

- Save the Date Sept 27th & 28th for the [25th Annual NATI Conference](#)
- [DUI 101](#) by Codex Consulting
- [English/Portuguese legal glossary](#)

Recognitions

- ✚ “Yeah, he was not very nice to her the first time, but she is so strong! Did her job and was very professional!” *Melisa Tonniges, Courtroom Clerk, Certified Electronic Reporter*, commented about an individual who has been very difficult and refused to respond to Judge Wetzel in Hall County Court when **Estella Abuelsheikh** was interpreting for him. – *Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Happy Interpreter Day! Thank you for all you do for us and the public! - *Cassie Buethe, Clerk Magistrate, Richardson County Court*
- ✚ To all the interpreters who have traveled near and far to assist with trials. **THANK YOU!!** – *Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ **Norma Olivas:** Yes, she was there, and she did a fantastic job!! *Annette Shafer, Lincoln County Court*
- ✚ **Vladimir Bazan:** he always goes with the flow with last-minute calendar changes, and he is always willing to go where needed. *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ **Myhanh Che, Tera Trindle and Morics Moo-** Thank you for your prompt responses to last minute interpreter request, I value your work ethic.- *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ Just want to say how much we appreciate **Olivia Brockman, Cristina Kropf, and all the interpreters** providing us critically important assistance in the courtroom: THANK YOU - *Judge Partsch, Sarpy County Court*
- ✚ **Angelo Abella** – Thank you for helping us find the correct language for the defendant, with your help we were able to find the interpreter to cover the hearing.- *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*

- ✚ Kelly Varguez, Sunkist Judson, Tara Trindle, Keak Kierkok, Abukar Madimba, Ashley Villanueva Enriquez, Frankie McGregor, and Al Villarreal thank you for your assistance and for always been prepared to lend a hand, especially with last-minute changes and requests. I truly appreciate all the help and support you provide to the Language Access Team! – *Adrian Hinojosa, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ Raul Escobar is so great! - *Rebecca Schultz, District 5 Probation*
- ✚ **Language Access Team**, I genuinely value all the assistance and support you've provided. Having your support is truly appreciated, thank you! – *Adrian Hinojosa, Interpreter Coordinator*



Did you know?

In México, a new national university specializing in Indigenous language courses began classes in September 2023, the Mexican National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) has announced. The foundational documents for the new University of Indigenous Languages of México (ULIM) were signed by Adelfo Regino Montes, INPI's general director, at a recent ceremony organized in conjunction with International Mother Language Day, on Feb. 21. Opening with a ritual of gratitude to Mother Earth, the ceremony at México City's Tlatelolco University Cultural Center featured speeches by the principals of various Indigenous and educational institutes – some delivered in Indigenous languages. In 2020, President López Obrador made a formal commitment to create ULIM in Milpa Alta borough, México City.

A [statement by INPI](#) said “The creation of ULIM seeks the teaching of courses and the establishment of research faculties, with the purpose of strengthening and developing the linguistic heritage of México, based on respect and recognition of multilingualism,” —an objective also identified and supported by the [UN's Decade of Indigenous Languages](#).

Initially the ULIM will offer four degrees: Teaching of Indigenous Languages; Interpretation and Translation of Indigenous Languages; Literature in Indigenous Languages; and Indigenous Intercultural Communication. Learning through linguistic immersion, students will be partially evaluated through community projects promoting the development of their chosen language.

INPI director Regino Montes explained “This is the raw material of our nascent university; we are going to make a wide call to the whole country to form part of our teaching staff, as well as the academic and research teams for each degree,” he added. “This university, unlike in the past, is not a unilateral creation from above; here the people of Milpa Alta have been heard and consulted.”

As of 2023, 68 different Indigenous languages are counted by México's National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI) with approximately 7 million speakers, according to the most recent census data. The most widely spoken are Nahuatl and Maya.

However, numbers of Indigenous language speakers are waning at a rapid rate, putting several native tongues at risk of extinction—partially due to historic prohibitions in using Indigenous languages in educational spaces.

Despite the outlaw of detrimental linguistic prohibitions, work is being done to ensure the prevention of linguistic discrimination in México. At the recent ceremony, Claudia Morales Reza, president of the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (Conapred), emphasized that Indigenous language speakers in México still face systemic discrimination.

Bertha Dimas, INPI's coordinator of cultural heritage, research and education said "The [ULIM] has the tasks of recovery, revitalization, promotion, and encouragement of the use of national languages. The results we expect from the ULIM's academic activities will be to increase the effective number of speakers, so that we do not lose one more language."