

May 28, 2025



Please join me in welcoming Jo-Hanna Camacho Goettsche back into the fold! She achieved certified status in 2007, but then worked in a variety of jobs until court and probation interpreting called her name. She will support the branch in-person in Lancaster County and the state remotely. Please make sure to introduce yourself and make her feel welcome!

Upcoming State Holidays The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed on Thursday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

First Annual Interpreter Conference

Our first foray into an interpreter conference is shaping up quite nicely! The conference will be held Saturday, June 14th from 9am- 4pm on the BoysTown Campus (14100 Crawford St. Boys Town NE, 68010). The conference will be live streamed, and lunch will be provided. **RSVP by June 11th**

Session Time	Session Name	Presenter	CEUs
9am – 9:30am	Welcome & Judicial Resources	Kathleen Valle, Language Access Director	0.5
9:30am – 10:15am	Nebraska Judicial Branch – Courts and Probation	Gene Cotter, Probation Administrator Amy Prenda, Deputy Administrator for Court Services	0.75
10:15am – 10:30am	Break		
10:30am – 11:30am	Child Support/District Court Referees - No, We Don't Wear Striped Shirts	Hang Tat, Douglas Co District Court Referee	1.0
11:30am – 12:00pm	TBD	TBD	TBD
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch		
1:00pm – 2:00pm	The Cost of Bearing Witness: Building Resilience around Secondary Trauma	Elizabeth Cole, UNL Innocence Clinic Director	1.0 Professional Responsibility
2:15pm – 2:30pm	Break		
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Zoom Tutorial best practices – tips/tricks	Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator	0.5
3:00pm – 4pm	Trials	Jason Bergevin, Nebraska Supreme Court Justice	1.0

Interpretation II Students Welcome Court Interpreter Irma Watt to the Classroom



After spending many hours shadowing her in the courtroom throughout the spring semester, Interpretation II students at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) were thrilled to welcome seasoned court interpreter Irma Watt into their classroom. The course, which focuses on legal interpretation, includes training in interpreting skills, legal vocabulary, ethics, certification requirements, and the judicial process in Nebraska. Irma's extensive experience and deep understanding of the field—especially her insights on the power of language and the essential role of interpreters in the courtroom—provided students with invaluable real-world perspective as they prepare for careers in language interpreting.

Interpreter Certification Pathway

- Skill Building will be held on June 19th & 20th via Zoom. This is a language neutral training that prepares certification candidates for the Oral Exam and provisional certification candidates for interpreting in the face paced court and probation settings. [Register](#) today! Individuals must have already attended Orientation.

Professional Resources

- [IUS Mexicanum](#)-conocer más acerca del mundo del derecho
- [Simulación de audiencia preliminar](#)
- Upcoming National Center for Interpretation webinars

5/29 [The Craft of Notetaking](#) (Spanish/English)

5/31 [Anatomy and Physiology](#) (Spanish/English)

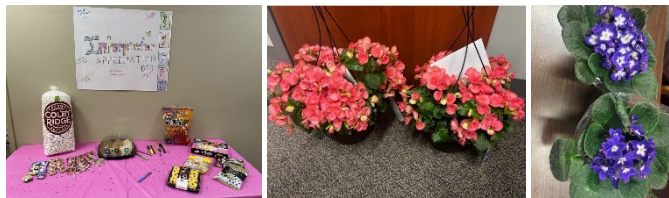
6/4 [Intro to Weaponry](#) (Spanish/English)

6/7 [Drug Terminology](#) (Spanish/English)

6/12 [Features of English and Spanish](#)

Recognitions

In recognition of Interpreter Appreciation Day!



I enjoyed working with **Amiel Armijo** on the equipment project! Amiel also figured out my phone and now I'm able to see my emails 😊 – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator, Language Access*

Olivia Brockman, ever since I began shadowing in Sarpy, you have generously provided suggestions that range from the best online and physical dictionaries, to avoiding pen parks on my top (😬), to keeping a piece of gum nearby for dry throat during long interpreting sessions, where to park, how to round up Spanish-speaking individuals in the courtroom or hallway, and how to assist them at the clerk's office, saved my notes on the back of the roster, opened your office as a place for me to land before and after assignments, and more that have made me feel warmly welcomed over the last year. Thank you! – *Monica Kellogg, Registered Spanish Interpreter*

Cristina Kropf, your expertise and kindness have been encouraging on this challenging journey that it is to become court interpreter. Thank you for sharing your experience, quirky vocabulary & interpreting stories, for allowing me to shadow you, revising translations with me, introducing me to staff, calling me to cover for you and praying together. It is a pleasure getting to know you and work alongside you. !Gracias! – *Monica Kellogg, Registered Spanish Interpreter*

Adrian Hinojosa, thanks for printing copies of helpful documents for me to study, welcoming me into the Douglas office, and for introducing me to some of the other interpreters! – *Monica Kellogg, Registered Spanish Interpreter*

Frankie MacGregor, I got such good study material from a mass arraignment that I shadowed you on last summer. I took notes on your Spanish rendition, then went home, translated into English, and studied that for a while... SO helpful! Thanks for making that possible on a whim, as it wasn't planned! Your fluidity in both languages is impressive. Thank you for generously sharing insights about the system, terminology, guiding me through the courthouse building, tips on parking... gracias! – *Monica Kellogg, Registered Spanish Interpreter*

Kelly Varguez, your willingness to share about the interpreting profession, for leading classes and sharing ways to improve our skills- it has helped me to stay on track! Even when I saw you at Myhanh's ceremony, you encouraged me to stay with it again, thank you! – *Monica Kellogg, Registered Spanish Interpreter*

Dale Taylor, Kari Corkle came up with the saying, “get out of Dale free card,” which I think fits perfectly since you’re always helping us out when we’re in a bind. THANK YOU!! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

Constanza Meier, Irma Watt, and Stacey Con, thank you SO much for your patience and the help you provided during a 4-day Jury Trial in Nuckolls District Court. – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

Thank you, **Manuel Olivo**, for your professionalism and attention to detail, it’s a pleasure to work with you.
- *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*

I just wanted to drop you a note to say how much I appreciate having **Kelly Varquez and Ashley Villanueva Enriquez** on my team. They are always both so supportive and helpful and willing to pitch in to cover whenever one of us gets stuck in an unexpectedly long hearing or need to leave because of family emergencies. – *Frankie MacGregor, Certified Spanish Interpreter*

I'm extremely grateful for some very generous help I got from **Tara Trindle and Kelly Varquez**, who brought me groceries when one of my family members was unexpectedly hospitalized. It was one less thing I had to think about so I could focus on getting to work and caring for my family member. – *Frankie MacGregor, Certified Spanish Interpreter*

Thank you, **Adrian Hinojosa**, for your continued work to ensure that D4 Probation has the correct staffing levels to meet their needs and that POs understand the workflow. – *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Director*

We are grateful to **Fabie Bodek** (Haitian Creole), who managed to adjust her schedule between assignments to assist with a very last-minute remote interpreting request for Douglas County Court. - *Adrian Hinojosa, Language Access Coordinator*

We are truly thankful to **Noel Abrahamson** (Tigrinya) for rearranging his schedule on short notice to provide remote interpreting support for a last-minute request at Dakota County Court. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Coordinator*

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our **entire team of interpreters** for always being willing to take on last-minute calls, unexpected schedule changes, and challenging assignments. Your flexibility and dedication not only make my job less stressful but also strengthen our team as a whole. Thank you all! - *Adrian Hinojosa, Language Access Coordinator*

This month I would like to recognize **Stacey Con and Maria Reutlinger** on their Interpreter Statements. They both send in meticulous supporting documentation which is always organized and labeled appropriately. Their actions help to streamline the review process making it very efficient. – *Robin Baer, Administrative Assistant*

I would also like to recognize **Carmen Novoa**. My understanding is that she is relatively new to our process and in the two months I have done her Interpreter Statements, she has improved by leaps and bounds.

She takes direction well from month to month and applies it to her next month's statements. – *Robin Baer, Administrative Assistant*

Thank you, Kathleen! I personally feel that **your interpreters** do a WAY better job of helping us communicate with our families and are super flexible! Your team is really great to work with! - *Monessa Allerheiligen, D4 Specialized Probation Officer*

Did you know?

Feeling down? If you need motivation, call 707-873-7862 and kindergartners will give you a pep talk!

