



new mexico center  
for language access

MULTILINGUAL INTERPRETING  
AND TRANSLATION  
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

# Newsletter

Issue III



## A unique collaborative effort brings law students and interpreters-in-training together.



*Justice Chávez administers the oath to Justice System Interpreting students.*

Albuquerque, NM— A unique collaborative effort brought University of New Mexico law students and interpreters-in-training together at the Law School's final mock trials for the Evidence/Trial Practice class held on November 20, 2010, at the Second Judicial District Court in Albuquerque. As law students presented their cases to the presiding judge, Justice Edward Chávez, of the New Mexico Supreme Court, students studying to be certified as Justice System Interpreters through the New Mexico Center for Language Access practiced interpreting for a non-English-speaking juror. The purpose of this first-time collaboration was to expose future attorneys to working with court interpreters, while providing interpreting students with an opportunity to interpret in the court environment, according to judicial protocol.

The provision of language access by state courts is required under federal law. In a recent Department of Justice letter to state courts, Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General, reiterated "...that court systems receiving federal financial assistance, either directly or indirectly, must provide meaningful access to limited English proficient persons in order to comply with Title VI (of the Civil Rights Act of 1964), the Safe Streets Act (of 1968), and their implementing regulations." Additionally, New Mexico is the only state that has a constitutional provision to seat non-English speaking jurors.



*Karla Segovia and Suheila interpret the closing arguments.*

As Justice Chávez presided fourteen students took turns interpreting for the non-English speaking juror at the recent mock trial. Simultaneous interpreting – when the interpreter renders the message in the target language, while the source-language speaker continuously speaks— was used to interpret the proceedings to the juror. Consecutive interpreting –when the interpreter speaks after the source-language speaker has finished speaking—was used to interpret for the juror, during the *voir dire* and deliberations. The students used wireless interpreting equipment and had their performance evaluated by New Mexico Certified Court Interpreter, Delia Marquez of Santa Fe.

In view of the high demand for trained interpreters –and the scarcity of such interpreters coupled with the State’s need to provide language access under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the New Mexico Center for Language Access (NMCLA) opened its doors in late November, 2009. A collaborative effort of the New Mexico Judiciary, the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos, and the University of New Mexico Hospital, NMCLA offers multilingual online training for bilingual individuals interested in becoming interpreters in justice system or health care settings. NMCLA also offers a Language Access Certificate Program for bilingual employees who are asked to provide language assistance as part of their work, either formally or informally. Oversight of curriculum development, student recruitment and effectiveness of the training based on students’ on-the-job performance is provided by an interdisciplinary Advisory Council comprised of the collaborators and representatives of a diverse spectrum of public agencies.



*NM Court Certified Interpreter Delia Márquez gives feedback to students after the trial.*

Interpreting students went home having gained hands-on experience in a trial. Law students became aware of the challenges interpreters face when the speech speed is too fast or the volume is too low.

Only an informed juror can make an informed decision. An accurate and complete interpretation is instrumental to ensure due process. Justice is served only if *all* individuals involved have equal access to the process. Language access is equal access.



*Time to relax and take a group shot after an intense session.*

*Court Interpreter Delia Márquez - NMCLA Director, Paula Couselo – Court Interpreter Amelia Youssefi – Justice System Interpreter, Abel Flores – Justice System Interpreting students: Wendy Prieto – Olivia Philip – Phillip Hutsell – Jessica Vásquez – Lupe Griego – Marisa del Río – Suheila Baeza – Karla Segovia*



# 2011 Interpreter Training

## Professional Development Classes

**Online Training!**



### **Advanced Spanish for Language Professionals (SPAN 293 – online)**

**This is an online 3-credit course offered through UNM Los Alamos.** The course's main focus is to improve students' advanced Spanish language oral and written skills. Topics include: advanced use of language, terminology, collocations, prepositions, grammar, pronunciation, colloquialisms, idioms, and Hispanic culture. Heritage speakers, translators, interpreters and advanced Spanish students are ideal candidates to this course. This is an online course. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next class begins on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011** **Registration:** [www.la.unm.edu](http://www.la.unm.edu) 505-661-4688

### **Advanced English for Language Professionals (ENGL 298 – online)**

**This is an online 3-credit course offered through UNM Los Alamos.** The course's main focus is to improve students' advanced English language oral and written skills. Topics include: advanced use of language, terminology, collocations, prepositions, grammar, pronunciation, colloquialisms, idioms, and American culture. Translators, interpreters and advanced ESL students are ideal candidates to this course. This is an online course. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next class begins on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** **Registration:** [www.la.unm.edu](http://www.la.unm.edu) 505-661-4688

### **English-Spanish Criminal & Procedural Law Terminology I (online)**

This class introduces students to the most common terms of criminal and procedure law, the legal concepts behind them and how to translate legal terms based on a model of functional equivalency. The class will greatly enhance students' terminological knowledge and prepare them for classes in consecutive and simultaneous court interpreting. **Duration:** 4 weeks. **Next class begins on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** **Info & Registration:** <http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/>

### **Justice System Interpreting (online)**

This class introduces students to fundamental legal concepts and terminology, and the NM and federal legal systems. The class includes intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting with a high degree of specialization. **Duration:** 8 weeks. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next Class begins on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** **Info & Registration:** <http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/>

### **Medical Interpreting (online)**

This class introduces students to fundamental medical concepts and terminology, and basic anatomy and physiology. The class includes intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting with a higher degree of specialization. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next Class begins on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** **Info & Registration:** <http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/>





## Hybrid & Face-to-face Training



### Justice System Interpreting Mentorship Program (face-to-face – online)

#### Program includes:

1. Face-to-face intensive training session at UNM School of Law
2. Practice simultaneous interpreting examination (administered under the same conditions of the consortium's examination + rating/feedback from instructor).
3. Court observation
4. Volunteer program at UNM Law Clinic
5. Interpreting for jurors at UNM School of Law Mock Trials
6. Online test preparation with instructor

**Program starts on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Requisites:** Must have taken NM Court Interpreter Orientation in 2010 or 2011. Must have passed the Consortium Written Examination. NMCLA admission process required. **Info &**

**Registration:** <http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/>

### Justice System Interpreting Intensive Face-to-face Training Session

#### Sessions include:

1. Professionalism and marketing of language services
2. Overview of final examinations
3. Intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting
4. Practice simultaneous examination (administered under the same conditions of the consortium's examination + rating/feedback from instructor)
5. Mini mock trial
6. Interpreting for jurors
7. Language-specific session

**Dates:** June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. **Requisites:** same as Mentorship Program. **Info & Registration:** <http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/>

Visit us on **You Tube**

A video of the **Justice System Interpreting Intensive Face-to-face Training Session** is available on our YouTube Channel:

**NMLanguageAccess**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NMLanguageAccess>



# Certificate Programs

Online Training!

## JUSTICE SYSTEM INTERPRETING



This program is designed to train interpreters who work throughout the justice system. Individuals interested in pursuing court interpreting certification are ideal candidates for this program. Attorneys, and experienced certified court interpreters and translators with a variety of backgrounds have designed this interdisciplinary curriculum. The program also includes an internship.

### ***Justice System Interpreter is a category recognized by the NM Judiciary***

Justice System Interpreters are included in the Registry of Justice System Interpreters\* maintained by the NM Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and covered by the Supreme Court's established fee schedule and continuing education and background check requirements.

*\*Pending final approval*

<b>Introduction to NMCLA &amp; Online Learning</b> 4 weeks	
<b>Fundamentals of Translation &amp; Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	<b>Ethics &amp; Best Practices</b> 4 weeks
	<b>Criminal &amp; Procedural Law Terminology</b> 4 weeks
<b>Justice System Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	
<b>Internship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Face-to-face session at UNM School of Law (intensive practice – simultaneous practice examination – mini mock trial – interpreting for jurors/team interpreting – language specific session)</li><li>• Interpreter experience at <b>UNM Law Clinics</b></li><li>• Interpreter experience at <b>UNM School of Law Mock Trials</b></li><li>• Online work and test preparation</li></ul>	
<b>Final Examinations*</b>	

### **Benefits**

- Certificate issued by UNM - Los Alamos
- Certificate recognized by the NM Judiciary
- Flexible and accessible schedule
- Multilingual training
- Experience through an internship
- Financial aid for those who qualify

### **\*JSI Final Examination Requirements**

NMCLA uses the Consortium for the State Courts Interpreter Certification Examination. Students who pass their written examination and score between 55% and 69% in their oral examination become Justice System Interpreters and are added to the registry of Justice System Interpreters, which is available to potential employers. Students who score 70% and above become NM certified interpreters.



**Online Training!**

## MEDICAL INTERPRETING



This program is designed to train interpreters who facilitate linguistic and cultural communication between patients and healthcare providers at doctors' offices, hospitals, emergency rooms, and other medical facilities. Experienced medical interpreters, physicians and other healthcare providers have designed this interdisciplinary curriculum. The program also includes a clinical internship.

### **40-hour Internship at UNM Hospitals**

Upon completion of the online classes, students are assigned to the Interpreter Language Services Department at UNM Hospital. Students gain experience in face-to-face, telephonic and video interpreting at the UNMH clinics and E.R.

<b>Introduction to NMCLA &amp; Online Learning</b> 4 weeks	
<b>Fundamentals of Translation &amp; Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	<b>Ethics &amp; Best Practices</b> 4 weeks
<b>Medical Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	
<b>Internship</b> 40 hours <b>Orientation</b> (1hr) <b>Operations Block</b> (4 hrs) <b>Interpreter Skills Block</b> (36 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Face-to-face interpreting</li><li>-Video interpreting</li><li>-Telephonic interpreting</li></ul>	
<b>Final Examination</b>	

### **Benefits**

- Certificate issued by UNM - Los Alamos
- Flexible schedule
- Classes taught by M.D. and medical interpreters
- Multilingual training
- Internship at UNM Hospital
- Financial aid for those who qualify



**Certificate Programs begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.**  
**Application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

**[www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org](http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org)**





# Resources

## High-Tech Glossary Building



### Personal Lexicon

Initially geared towards language acquisition, Personal Lexicon allows interpreters and translators to create and share glossaries. Glossary items, which are called lexical items within the program, are easily added to your custom-built lexicon along with their meanings and parts of speech. Additional features allow language professionals to capture other important information like regions of use, synonyms, antonyms, usage context, and more. Items can be organized into themes that you define so that you can track and study related groups.

Automatically generated tests can also help you memorize and learn what you need to know. Print out sections of your lexicon to help you study on the road or share your lexicon with your peers using the import/export features.

Visit <http://personal-lexicon.com> for more information.

# Happy Holidays!

May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open  
to great possibility.

Mary Anne Radmacher



NMCLA Faculty & Staff