

February 24, 2026

Look at these results from our most recent oral exam! Non-certified interpreters Tom Fennel (Russian) and Bryan Watkins (French) achieved Registered status! Spanish interpreters Tirzah Corbin and Joseba Moreno achieved Registered status on their first try! Please congratulate your colleagues and make them feel welcome. I just love to watch individuals as they journey along the Interpreter Certification Pathway. All four live in the Omaha metropolitan area. 😊



Fennel

Watkins

Corbin

Moreno

Upcoming State Holidays

- April 24th Arbor Day

2nd Annual Interpreter Conference

Register now for our 2nd annual interpreter conference to take place Friday, April 24th (Arbor Day) from 9am – 4pm on the BoysTown campus in Omaha (14100 Crawford St. Omaha, NE 68010). Just like last year we will have both in-person and streaming options. The day will include lunch, CEU sessions, and mingling with your colleagues!

2026 Interpreter Certification Pathway

- February 25th deadline to register for the [Written Exam](#)
- March 5th deadline to register for [Skill Building](#)
- March 16th deadline to register for the [Oral Exam](#)

Interpreting Equipment

A big thank you to Amiel Armijo, Olivia Brockman, Cristina Kropf, and Monica Silva Gomez for putting [this training video](#) together! It's 6 minutes and 30 seconds long.

Introducing yourself

When introducing yourself to the LEP never say “I’m YOUR interpreter” – that will make them think you work for them, are on their side, will not be interpreting for any other LEP, etc. It is recommended that you say “I will be interpreting for today’s hearing/probation meeting”. As professional linguists we know that each word carries weight.

Non-Employee Payment Request

As a meal reimbursement (not per diem), is available for Nebraska interpreters who travel and have an overnight stay. Some considerations:

- If hotel has a free breakfast, no reimbursement is available if you choose to eat elsewhere.
- Lunch max is \$19 and dinner is \$28.
- Anything over the max will not be reimbursed.

Professional Resources

- [Classes | American Pie Seminars](#) Series 9 been posted
- [Elevate 2026](#) The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Florida's (ATIF) annual conference will be held February 27th – March 1st
- [AI-Powered Document Preparation for Language Professionals](#) brought to you by ATA on February 24th
- Franklin Jones Jr recently released his new book [Learn Black American Sign Language: A History and Complete Beginner's Guide with Over 200 Words and Phrases](#).
- [NAJIT Academy: Self-Care for Interpreters and Translators](#) February 21st FREE
- [NAJIT Academy: Intro to Forensic Transcription/Translation](#) March 12th
- [National Center for Interpretation LLC](#)
- FREE [Workshops for Legal Language Professionals](#) Bilingual English/French. Funded by the Ministry of Justice of Canada.
- [Ethics in Expert Witness Testimony](#) 3 CEUs, language neutral, Use coupon code THX10 for 10% discount

Recognitions

 2/1 **Kari Corkle's** work anniversary

 We appreciate everything your office does to make sure we continue running smoothly and we enjoy **all of the interpreters** we are able to work with! Thank you very much, as well as **Adrian Hinojosa and all of your staff**. We appreciate you very much! - *Judge Candice Novak, Douglas County Juvenile Court*

 It was a pleasure to work with **Mydge Heaney** (CART) and both ASL tactile interpreters (**Katrina Watton** and **Arthur Trexler**). They did a phenomenal job. - *Sharmin Gonzales, Clerk Magistrate Buffalo County Court*

 Dear **Kari Corkle**, I hope you feel better now. Even though you were not feeling one hundred percent, you still remarkably directed and guided us. Indeed, I would like to thank you for the great coordination and orchestration that you provided together with other wonderful ensemble members from your administration office despite and against all odds, hence we were able to complete our assignment this week. I also would like to acknowledge, recognize and appreciate our amazing colleagues, **Mai Nguyen** (non-certified Vietnamese) and **Myhahn Che** (Certified Vietnamese). Their dedicated and supportive team spirit definitely enabled us to do our job. They brought a big box of the audio equipment along with their own. Even though they were busy preparing for their own work, as soon as we arrived at the courtroom, they immediately came over to us, connected and set up the audio equipment, and kindly and thoroughly explained how to use and connect them. Thanks to them, we were able to use the audio system smoothly and without any problems. During our lunch break, they even went the extra mile and drove us to restaurants. We are simply grateful for their collegial hospitality and teamwork. Thanks to them, we were able to complete this task much more easily and enjoyably. – *YoYo Kim, Certified Korean interpreter*

 I'm thankful to be able to count on you (**Amiel, Kari, Adrian & Katheen**) for practice and error and for providing feedback. Each project we work on becomes a group effort until we figure out the best way to handle it. I appreciate you! – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*

- ✚ Reflecting on 2025! I'm so grateful for **all of you interpreters!** Thank you for your dedication to the profession and for being available to cover those difficult cases we face each day. Thank you for your patience in working with the courts calendar. Looking forward to partnering with all of you in 2026. – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Olivia Brockman** has really embraced all the new technology and communication options available to us. She is always willing to share her knowledge and explain things. - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ **Mai Nguyen** (non-certified Vietnamese) is fabulous! - *Officer Stacy Strohmyer, 3A Probation*
- ✚ **Amiel Armijo** has been great to work with also. We seem to do a good job of keeping each other on the same page. - *Quin Rohan, Clerk of District Court Dixon County District Court*
- ✚ **Benn Rocha** (Certified Spanish) was awesome. Thanks Benn!! - *Officer Madison Carter, 3J Probation*
- ✚ **Tara Trindle** (non-certified Arabic) is awesome. She is so professional, prompt, and flexible when it comes to accommodating. - *Kristin Ceballos, Bailiff, Lancaster County District Court*
- ✚ **Salim Merza** (non-certified Arabic & Kurdish) was wonderful to work with as well! We know he was running back and forth between courtrooms. - *Kristin Ceballos, Bailiff, Lancaster County District Court*
- ✚ **Ben Hammer** (Registered Spanish) was present and always does an excellent job! - *Tina DeVoe, Clerk of District Court, Keith County*
- ✚ **Valdimir Bazan** (Certified Spanish) is always willing to swap counties and go where is most needed on days he is reserved. Thank you for being so flexible, Vlad! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Thank you for all your help this morning, **Monica Silva Gomez** (Registered Spanish)! I really appreciate the assist with the technical difficulties! – *Matthew Benck Sarpy County Probation Officer*
- ✚ Thank you so much for being such a sturdy Branch of the Nebraska Judicial Branch – couldn't resist 😊, **Kari Corkle**, and **Olivia Brockman**, we couldn't have figured out the Interpretation feature on zoom without your help!! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ **Katrina Watton** (ASL) and **Arthur Trexler** (ASL), a million THANK YOU'S; my rare ASL Tactile interpreting request wouldn't have gotten taken care of without your corroboration, teamwork, and expertise! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Also, I just want to add...it was a great experience teaming with **Arthur Trexler** (ASL), and I look forward to working with him in the future! – *Katrina Watton, ASL interpreter*

- ✚ **Irma Watt** (Certified Spanish) thank you for all you do, even when some hearings are more difficult than others and for the time you put into them. I appreciate it SO much. – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- ✚ **Maria Reutlinger** (Registered Certified), I would be scrambling more than I do without your help. THANK YOU – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- ✚ **Abdi Elmi** (Certified Somali), **Abubakar Abraham** (Registered Somali), and **Abukar Madimba** (non-certified Somali), I really appreciate your support during my three-day Jury Trial in Hall County and Douglas County’s Somali interpreter need for the week of January 26th – 28th. Your assistance allowed for Adrian Hinojosa and me to brainstorm how to coordinate the various Somali interpreter needs. Thank you!! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- ✚ **Nick Nersesian’s** (Registered Russian & Ukrainian) statements and supporting documentation is always numbered and in order which provides seamless processing for payment. - *Robin Baer, Administrative Assistant*

- ✚ Good morning! I am not sure who all needs to see this but wanted to commend **Carmen Novoa** on her work in Dakota County Court. I recently decided that case, which had been under advisement. I told Carmen at the conclusion of the hearing (01/09/2026) how impressed I was. The small-claims case involved a number of exhibits, which were only brought in on the day of the hearing. It also involved complex automotive terminology. We had arranged for an interpreter to be present by ZOOM before we were aware of the number of exhibits and the intricate, specialized terminology. Carmen Novoa did an absolutely outstanding job. My college major was Spanish, and I have had the opportunity to live and study abroad to enhance my skills over the years. I must say that I remain IN AWE of Carmen’s work as interpreter that day. I thought you all should know. Please give Carmen Novoa a “pat on the back” for a job well done. Thank you. - *Edward H. Matney, County Court Judge, Sixth Judicial District*

Tax Documents

State Accounting will mail out the 1099s by January 31st. The minimum amount an individual needs to earn to receive a 1099 is \$600. If you have questions or do not receive your 1099 by the beginning of February, you can reach State Accounting directly at (402)471-2581.

Did you know?

[Paraguay is fighting to preserve Guarani, a language of roots and soul](#) Guarani is one of Paraguay’s two official languages alongside Spanish. But linguists warn that fluency among younger generations is slipping, so nationwide preservation efforts are underway.