October 14, 2026

As I write this, I'm proctoring the written exam at Sarpy County and can hear applause coming from Wellness Court in courtroom #5. It isn't even their graduation day, yet participants are enthusiastically cheering one another on as they work toward healthier, more productive lives.

Moments like this remind me how fortunate we are to work in environments that believe in redemption, growth, and second chances. As interpreters, it is easy to become focused on the next assignment, the next hearing, or the next request. In the rush, we can sometimes lose sight of the remarkable transformations happening all around us.

Every day, our work helps ensure that individuals and families can fully participate in the justice system, understand critical information, and have their voices heard. While we may only be one part of the process, we play an important role in supporting access, fairness, and the opportunity for a better tomorrow.

Thank you for being a part of that mission.

Upcoming State Holidays

The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed in observance of:

- Veterans Day, November 11th
- Thanksgiving, November 26th – 27th

Continuing Education Units

Continuing education is required by the Nebraska Judicial Branch to ensure that certified, provisionally certified, and registered interpreters maintain and improve their interpreting skills. Annual Interpreter Continuing Education Compliance Form for January 1, 2026- December 31, 2026, **are due no later than February 1, 2027.** Annual CEU submission is a condition to remain on the Statewide Register of Interpreters. A big thank you to those interpreters who have already submitted their forms – way to be on top of it!!

- Foreign language interpreters shall complete and report 5 credit hours of approved continuing education every year. At least 2 continuing education hours must be earned in professional responsibility.
- Every certified Sign Language and CDI must complete and report the RID required 20 contact hours with the minimum of 15 hours in Professional Studies.
- Every non-certified Sign Language and DI must complete and report the NCDHH required 12 clock hours with a minimum of 9 hours in Professional Studies and 1.5 hours in interpreter ethics

False Cognates (Spanish)

Recently I met Professor Piet Koene at the Nebraska Association of Translators and Interpreters (NATI) Conference at UNK. He is a professor of Spanish, Translation & Interpretation at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA. I attended his False Cognate session, and it was incredible! Professor Koene graciously sent me his ppt (attached to email) to share with aspiring and current interpreters for the good of the profession. Please note that he is the author of this great resource which was developed as part of NWC's online legal interpreting certificate program which you should also check out as it's one of the only cohort-based online programs in legal interpreting.

Holiday Giving Opportunity

Adrian will once again be leading our Christmas Adopt-A-Family program. Thanks to the generosity of our interpreter partners, we were able to sponsor 13 families last year – our goal was 10!!!- and help make their holiday season a little brighter. If you feel inspired to join us again this year, we would be grateful for your support. As the holiday season approaches and many organizations seek your time and talents, we want you to know how much we value our partnership and appreciate all you do to help us serve Nebraska's courts and probation offices. Watch for additional details in upcoming monthly communications! Even if you're unable to participate this year, know that your ongoing commitment to language access throughout the year makes a meaningful difference every day. 🎄✨

Professional Resources

- NATI article on adding punctuation in English when there's none in Spanish

- Court Fluent FREE oral exam practice materials
- To-MAY-to, To-MAH-to: State Laws, State Lingo, and the Interpreter's Dilemma ATA FREE webinar
- LEO's 14th international virtual conference remote conference Dec 3rd & 4th

Recognitions

- We just wrapped up a 1 ½ day interpreter trial (three afternoons). It was arduous. Our interpreters, **Myhanh Che and Mai Nguyen** (who was solo on Day 1) were incredible. Seamless, fast and accurate translation under difficult circumstances. I just wanted to drop a quick note to compliment them on their services. It's frequently a thankless job, and they deserve praise. – *Judge Reuter, Lancaster County Court*

- **Maria Reutlinger** takes the initiative to look up remote appearance confirmations on the JUSTICE public access computers before reaching out for assistance. Thank you, Maria! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*

- **Stacey Con** was great to work with. - *Michele Woods, Clerk Magistrate, Kimball County Court*

- **Perla Alarcon-Flory** always reaches out to the court/probation office for confirmation promptly at the conclusion of hearings/meetings. Thank you for being so organized! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*

- Thank you, **Rekha Gupta** for your prompt responses and willingness to accommodate the court's schedule. – *Olivia Brockman– Interpreter coordinator*

- It was so nice to meet you in person in Sarpy **Arthur Trexel**, thank you for your dedication to the profession. – *Olivia Brockman– Interpreter coordinator*

- **Wai Linn** did an excellent job with helping with Beh Rey team meeting on 9/30/2026. I really appreciate him. - *James Bankhead 4A Probation Officer*

- I wanted to share some feedback about my experience with the Dari/Farsi interpreter, **Nadia Bessembinders**, who interpreted for my PSI interview this morning. She was very helpful in explaining the cultural differences I did not know about, and she was overall very kind and knowledgeable. I highly recommend utilizing her for her services and I hope to work with her again, should the occasion arise! - *Tylar Brammer 4A Probation Officer*

- I wanted to take a moment to share some kudos and recognize our interpreters for the outstanding work they do and the support they consistently provide to our Language Access Program. We are fortunate to work with such a dedicated group of professionals who demonstrate reliability, professionalism, teamwork, and a genuine willingness to help. Each brings something valuable to our team. I feel fortunate to work with interpreters who not only take their responsibilities seriously but also understand the importance of teamwork and supporting the overall mission of the Language Access Program. Their willingness to cooperate, accommodate requests, and help when challenges arise makes a real difference in our daily operations. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Program Interpreter Coordinator*

    - **Al Villarreal:** Consistently punctual, prepared, and professional. He is someone we can count on to be ready and do a great job.
    - **Monica Silva:** Reliable, professional, and always prepared. She is dependable and willing to step in when help is needed.
    - **Ashley Villanueva Enriquez:** Always willing to help and does so with a positive attitude and a smile. Her friendly approach makes a difference.
    - **Tirza Corbin:** Consistently professional, punctual, and prepared. Her reliability is greatly appreciated.
    - **Caleb Corbin:** Professional, dependable, and always ready to assist when needed. He is a valuable resource for the program.

- **Vladimir Bazan:** A great team player who is professional and willing to help wherever needed. His cooperative attitude is appreciated.
- **Martha Brester:** Consistently demonstrates professionalism and a strong commitment to being prepared and ready to assist.
- **Sunkist Judson:** Exceptionally professional and always willing to lend a hand. She is a strong team player who demonstrates great support for the program.
- **Keak Kierkok:** Always willing to help and consistently demonstrates professionalism and dedication to the program.
- **Tara Trindle:** A dependable team player who approaches assignments professionally and contributes positively to our team.
- **Nadia Bessembinders:** Consistently professional and always willing to help. Her cooperative attitude and commitment are greatly appreciated.
- **Palwasha Samadi:** Professional, supportive, and always willing to assist when needed. Her flexibility and positive attitude are valuable to the team.
- **Yadu Sapkota:** Consistently professional and dependable, demonstrating a commitment to providing quality interpreting services.
- **Abukar Madimba:** Especially helpful when last-minute requests arise. His willingness to accommodate urgent assignments and support our scheduling needs is greatly appreciated.
- **Juanita Diego:** Very professional and always willing to help. Her cooperative attitude and support for the program do not go unnoticed.

- I would also like to recognize my colleagues, **Amiel Armijo, Kari Corkle, and Olivia Brockman**, for all their hard work, dedication, and continued support. We are fortunate to have a team that steps up and supports one another, especially when one of us is out of the office. Knowing that we can count on each other to keep things moving and make sure everything is covered makes a tremendous difference in our daily work. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Program Interpreter Coordinator*

Snapshots from the Field

This month's edition is from Sarah Wess who lives in Scottsbluff and writes, "Our community hosts the Old West Balloon Fest every August (see pic). One of the photos features the Scotts Bluff National Monument in the background, and the rest were taken around Scotts Bluff National Park."





Did You Know?

The American Bar Association's Journal has a list of10 courthouses across the nation that are claimed to be haunted. Perfect for this time of the year!