

Celebrating 10 Years of Interpretation Training

MIT-LIT



2001-2011

Southern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center (SNHAHEC) is a non-profit organization with the mission to conduct workforce development activities for current and future health professionals, with a special focus on reducing health disparities and promoting access to health care services in underserved communities. In 2011 SNHAHEC's interpretation and cultural competency program is celebrating 10 years of existence! The strategy for the program is to:

- Increase the number of trained medical interpreters in the health care workforce
- Provide a comprehensive approach to delivering quality health care services by offering cultural effectiveness training opportunities to health care professionals
- Increase the number of trained legal interpreters who can improve communication in courtrooms, schools, attorney's offices and other legal venues.
- Link organizations to trained medical and legal interpreters using the website www.snhahcec.org

Medical Interpretation Training (MIT): Since 2001 SNHAHEC has offered 22 medical interpretation classes ranging between 54 to 60-hours throughout NH. 435 interpreters received certificates of training. The graduates speak over 44 languages. **The success of the SNHAHEC MIT was recognized by The National AHEC Organization by awarding it with the "2006 AHEC Center Award for Excellency for Special Community Based Programs".**

The comprehensive curriculum includes: language access law, the role of the medical interpreter, the protocol of interpretation in health care, the national code of ethics & standards of practice, memory development, health care in the USA, anatomy of the human body, medical procedures, medical terminology vocabulary development in both languages, impact of culture on interpretation, resources for interpreters and information about the national certification and more.

For the first time in New Hampshire, beginning January 2012 SNHAHEC is going to offer the nationally renowned program called The Health Care Community Interpreter, by Cross Cultural Communications of Columbia MD. This is a comprehensive 60-hour program that teaches interpreters to work in health care, educational, social services and some legal fields. For the first time in New Hampshire, beginning March 2012 SNHAHEC is going to offer the nationally renowned program called The Health Care Community Interpreter, by Cross Cultural Communications of Columbia MD. This is a comprehensive 60-hour program that teaches interpreters to work in health care, educational, social services and some legal fields. The comprehensive student manual is accompanied by a workbook with over 50 exercises and role plays.

Legal Interpretation training (LIT): Since 2003 SNHAHEC has offered 9 legal interpretation classes. 171 interpreters received certificates of training. The Legal Interpretation graduates speak over 34 languages.

The curriculum includes: language access law, the role of the judicial interpreter, the protocol of interpretation in court and in other legal settings, the code of ethics, memory development, overview of the judicial system, constitutional rights, legal procedures, legal terminology, court procedures, court forms, court procedure observation during court visit and interpreter shadowing.

The interpretation program trainers, Florentina G. Dinu and Inna Lehman, graduated from 3 nationally renowned interpreter training programs: "The Community Interpreter"-Train the Trainer, offered by Cross Cultural Communication of Columbia MD; "Bridging The Gap"- Train the Trainer, offered by The Cross Cultural Health Care Program of Washington State and "The Art of Medical Interpretation" offered by Cross Cultural Communication Systems, Inc. of Massachusetts.

SNHAHEC trainings are accredited by the state of NH Postsecondary Education Commission – Career School Licensing.

All potential students are required to pass language screening in both languages they speak before being accepted into the program. Student progress is measured by weekly quizzes, class presentations, personalized homework and group homework, role-plays evaluated by the language group peers and/or assisted by language coaches. Students must pass a final oral and written exam to receive the graduation certificates.

SNHAHEC is a non-profit organization which offers cost-effective trainings, and is continually applying for funding to offer scholarships for applicants who need financial assistance.

A list of over 386 trained interpreters (medical and legal); who are ready for assignments is available through SNHAHEC website: WWW.SNHAHEC.org.