

15 years of Interpretation Training

2001/2002-2017

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 2001 SNHAHEC launched the first interpretation training program in NH. Since then SNHAHEC offered, throughout NH, 23 MEDICAL INTERPRETATION CLASSES (MIT) ranging between 54 to 60-hours. 452 interpreters received certificates of medical interpretation 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".

Beginning 2012 SNHAHEC has offered, for the first time in New Hampshire, the nationally renowned program THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY INTERPRETER, by Cross Cultural Communications of Columbia MD. This is a comprehensive 64-hour program that teaches interpreters to work in health care, educational, social services and some legal fields. The curriculum includes: language access law, the role of the interpreter, the protocol of interpretation, the national code of ethics & standards of practice, memory development, vocabulary development in both languages, impact of culture on interpretation, resources for interpreters and information about the national certification and more. The comprehensive student manual is accompanied by over 50 exercises and role plays. By January 2017 eleven classes have been offered, and over 150 students graduated.

Since 2003 SNHAHEC has offered 13 LEGAL INTERPRETATION CLASSES, 11 in Manchester and 2 on the seacoast NH. 230 interpreters received certificates of training. The Legal Interpretation graduates speak over 36 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.

Over 870 students received certificates of training from the 3 programs and a list of over 400 trained interpreters ready to accept assignments is posted on SNHAHEC website.

The interpretation program instructors, 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 Department of Education, and is offering cost-effective trainings, continually applying for funding to offer scholarships for applicants who need financial assistance.