CSUSM BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT





Raising the Profession

The field of interpreting has transformed from an ad hoc service into a profession. **Maribeth Bandas** is on a mission to provide bilingual individuals the professional training they need to succeed and the recognition they deserve.

ollowing more than a decade as a university-level Spanish instructor in Washington, D.C., Maribeth Bandas moved to Carlsbad, California, where she saw nothing but opportunity.

"We moved to California [in 2008] and I said, 'I'll translate. I'll interpret. I'll do other things, but I'm not going to teach,'" says Maribeth. "And then I saw a huge resource of bilingual—especially Spanish—speakers in North County San Diego. But there were also Tagalog, Chinese, Arabic—all kinds of bilingual speakers. Many were being used as interpreters in medical settings without being trained, which is so dangerous."

Maribeth was convinced of the need to bring professional standards, ethics and support to individuals who were tasked—officially or unofficially—to serve as interpreters at work or for family members. She went back East to become licensed to teach The Community Interpreter® training program.

Maribeth trained directly with program founder Marjory Bancroft. After earning her license, she approached Cal State San Marcos and in 2016 found a home in Extended Learning to teach bilingual individuals how to become professional interpreters.

While the training course gave Maribeth the licensing she needed, she had been preparing for this role her entire life.

A LOVE FOR LANGUAGE

Both of Maribeth's parents were professors who taught English as a foreign language. When she was 10, the family moved to Peru so her mom could gain experience abroad. In a bilingual school for five years, Maribeth was quickly at ease communicating in both English and Spanish. Later at university in the United States, she earned a BA in Liberal Studies, with independent study on the history of the Spanish language; an MA in Spanish and Latin American Studies; and an MPhil (Master of Philosophy) in the Human Sciences, with a focus on translation.

Over the course of her career, Maribeth has served as a bilingual translator and editor, a university Spanish instructor and a consultant in Spanish curriculum development. She



It takes much more than bilingual skills to become an interpreter, says Maribeth Bandas.

also worked as a translator in the Washington, D.C., Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs and as director of translation services for the Hispanic Link News Service. Currently, she is the owner and vice president of BEAM Translations.

FROM BILINGUAL TO INTERPRETER

The biggest misunderstanding Maribeth sees is that employers often believe their staff need only be bilingual to interpret. Sometimes, even the staff members believe it. But in fact, they need much more than that.

"If you want to be an interpreter, you need to train to be an interpreter," she says. "There are ethics you have to follow. It is taxing on the brain, and we talk about what happens when you get tired. There are so many skills that go into interpreting."

Professional standards in interpreting were recognized in the

Affordable Care Act (in Section 1557, effective July 18, 2016), which requires healthcare providers and health insurers to provide qualified translators (for written language) and interpreters (for spoken language) to individuals with limited English proficiency. They need to be professionally trained and they need to follow a strict code of ethics, principles and conduct.

The Professional Certificate in Interpreting at Cal State San Marcos prepares students to become qualified interpreters who can facilitate communication and access to services in schools, healthcare settings, nonprofit agencies, social service agencies, government settings and more. In addition, new technologies are accelerating the opportunities for remote interpreting, allowing interpreters to work from home. Students in the program quickly see its value.

This course is a first step for interpreters in the workforce, and it's a stepping stone to better work on every level.



"As soon as they understand there's a structure that supports them and that they are professionals, it changes their perspective," Maribeth says. "There's a huge population [of individuals] in the United States who are ad hoc interpreters for their parents, and that's now illegal. The more people we get qualified as interpreters in the healthcare system, the less that will happen."

A STEPPING STONE

The two 14-week certificate programs at CSUSM—Community Interpreting and Healthcare Interpreting—share the same core lessons on consecutive and simultaneous interpreting, sight translation, interpreting skills, ethical principles, protocols and more.

Lessons in specialized subject-matter knowledge and vocabulary vary between the two programs. Students must have proficiency in English and at least one other language. In addition, students must achieve an advanced mid-level score on an online language proficiency exam.

"This course is a first step for interpreters in the workforce, and it's a stepping stone to better work on every level," Maribeth says, noting that students who meet language proficiency standards and complete the course can then go on to take national or industry certification exams.

For Maribeth, finding her way back to teaching through interpreting has been more valuable than she could have imagined.

"To me, teaching students to interpret is more important than interpreting myself," she says. Through CSUSM, "I've put more than 100 students out there who can interpret professionally. My reach is much broader. I saw the resource of bilingual people here and thought, 'This is great. Let's get them trained.'"

For more information, visit csusm.edu/el/interpreting.



CERTIFICATE IN

COMMUNITY INTERPRETING

SAN MARCOS FALL 2021: ONLINE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Professional Certificate in Community Interpreting allows a dual-language participant with no prior interpreting skills to become a community interpreter in just 14 weeks. The skills developed are applicable to a variety of industrybased environments in the community, including business, education and human services settings. Participants will learn how to conduct the three major types of interpreting and will gain valuable skills that can help start or advance career pathways.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Interpreting skills learned through this program can be applied to a variety of industries
- Licensed industry professionals teach the program and facilitate interactive exercises as well as lectures
- Evening classes to accommodate working professionals' busy schedules
- Comprehensive materials and class structure enable faster transfer of knowledge to the workplace
- Certificate of completion indicates that classroom and language proficiency knowledge has been verified

Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to grow 19 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Job prospects should be best for those who have professional certification. The mean annual wage for interpreters and translators in California is \$61,150.

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting and sight translation
- Interpreting protocols such as positioning, professional introductions in more than one language, direct speech and turn-taking management
- Demonstrate an understanding and application of ethical principles for community interpreters
- Strategies to acquire specialized subject-matter knowledge
- Enhanced short-term memory skills for faster translation
- Effective note-taking for interpreting
- · Develop techniques to perform intervention and mediation in common community interpreting situations

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for interpreters and translators is projected to increase by 14,600 positions between 2018 and 2028, growth that is driven by globalization. Interpreters work in a variety of settings. The top industries for employment are professional, scientific and technical services; self-employed

professionals; government; state, local and private hospitals; and state, local and private educational services.

Use your bilingual skills to advance your career in a broad range of communitybased environments and position yourself for potential in-demand career changes or advances.

PROGRAM LOGISTICS

DATES: Oct. 6, 2021 - Feb. 2, 2022 (No classes Dec. 16, 2021 - Jan. 4, 2022)

TIME: 6 - 8 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays

DURATION: 14 weeks, two nights per week

LOCATION: Online

CEU: 5.6

FEE: \$1,599 entire certificate, including class materials and textbooks

DISCOUNT: Available for companies sending three or more individuals; CSUSM students and alumni, 15% savings

FUNDING: WIOA, MyCAA

ALSO AVAILABLE

TESL/TEFL, page 23 Healthcare Interpreting, page 45

SAVINGS

CSUSM students and alumni qualify for a 15% savings on many noncredit programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- 760-750-4020
- · el.inquiry@csusm.edu
- · csusm.edu/el/interpreting



CERTIFICATE IN

HEALTHCARE INTERPRETING

SAN MARCOS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Professional Certificate in Healthcare Interpreting allows a dual-language participant with no prior interpreting skills to become a qualified community interpreter in just 14 weeks. The program focuses on healthcare terminology and the skills developed can be transferred to a variety of healthcare industry settings. Participants will learn how to conduct the three major types of interpreting and will gain valuable skills that can help start or advance career pathways.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Interpreting skills learned through this program can be applied to a variety of industries, including healthcare
- Licensed industry professionals teach the program and facilitate interactive exercises as well as lectures
- Evening classes to accommodate working professionals' busy schedules
- Comprehensive materials and class structure enable faster transfer of knowledge to the workplace

"I train the (new interpreters), and I learned a lot about how to do it professionally by getting the certificate. This class improved my skills and gave me the tools and guidelines to follow."

May Zidan, Graduate

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting and sight translation
- Interpreting protocols such as positioning, professional introductions in more than one language, direct speech and turn-taking management
- Strategies to acquire specialized subject-matter knowledge and terminology with a focus on healthcare
- Enhanced short-term memory skills for faster translation
- Effective note-taking for interpreting

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TEXTBOOK: Visit website for required

textbook purchases

ONLINE ASSESSMENT: Visit website for

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