

2002-2020 Interpretation Training Fact Sheet

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.

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 exercises and role plays. By July 2020 seventeenth classes have been offered, one in Somersworth, one in Nashua and fourteen in Manchester, and one online via Zoom. 210 students graduated from the 17 trainings. The graduates speak 46 languages.

Since 2003 SNHAHEC has offered 16 LEGAL INTERPRETATION CLASSES, 13 in Manchester and 2 on the seacoast NH. 258 interpreters received certificates of training. The Legal Interpretation graduates speak over 38 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.

In 2001 SNHAHEC launched the first interpretation training program in NH. Since then SNHAHEC offered, throughout NH, 24 MEDICAL INTERPRETATION CLASSES (MIT & BTG) 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”.

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

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.