New Mexico Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing
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Website: www.cdhh.nm.gov

Education and Professional Development Opportunities for Interpreters

For more information contact:
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505.383.6530 Voice/TTY
505.435.9319 Videophone for Sign Language Users

A broad variety of education and professional development opportunities exist for signed language interpreters in New Mexico. Some are local, and others are offered through national organizations.

Interpreter Training Programs

Four-Year Baccalaureate Degree Program
University of New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Program
https://ling.unm.edu/signed-language-program/index.html

Two-Year Associate Degree Program
El Paso Community College
www.epcc.edu/Academics/SignLanguage

Distance-Based Program
University of Northern Colorado
Department of American Sign Language and Interpreting Studies
www.unco.edu/cebs/asl-interpreting

New Mexico Interpreters Distribution List
NMCDHH administers an email distribution list for signed language interpreters to share professional development opportunities, job postings, licensure updates, and other relevant information. If you are interested in being added to the distribution list, please email Trevor Brennan at Trevor.Brennan@cdhh.nm.gov. If you have something you would like to share with the interpreting community, please send it to the same address to be forwarded to the list.

Professional Development Programs
- **New Mexico Mentoring** - www.cdhh.nm.gov/interpreter-information/professional-development/
  - New Mexico Mentoring is a program of the NMCDHH. It is a structured, 16-week, distance-based program to assist pre-certified interpreters to develop the skills they need to become certified, and to assist certified interpreters in developing specialty skills. All licensed New Mexico interpreters are invited to apply.

- **New Mexico Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NMRID**) - www.nmrid.org
  - NMRID provides periodic workshops and conferences, and sponsors Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for interpreters who participate in Independent Study and Participant Initiated activities. Programs are announced on the NMRID website and shared with the New Mexico Interpreters Distribution List.

- **New Mexico School for the Deaf** - www.nmsd.k12.nm.us
  - NMSD provides professional development opportunities specifically for K-12 interpreters. Workshops are statewide, regional, and district specific. K-12 interpreters can benefit from statewide events such as ASL Immersion, which is offered yearly, on campus observations/shadowing of the NMSD interpreting department (available upon request), as well as individualized support by participating in NMSD's K-12 *Pathways to Partnership* mentoring program.

- **NMCDHH Apprentice Program** - www.cdhh.nm.gov/interpreter-information/professional-development/
  - NMCDHH runs a small part-time in-house apprentice program for pre-certified interpreters working toward national certification. A maximum of three participants in Albuquerque and one participant in Las Cruces are selected via a competitive application process each year with staggered start dates. The program is designed to supplement other community or educational interpreting work. Some hours are paid, while others are on a volunteer basis. At the end of the one-year apprenticeship, participants must pay to take a nationally recognized certification exam.

- **RGC-Access Internship Experience** - http://rgc-access.org
  - Local interpreter referral agency RGC-Access provides an internship experience for pre-certified recent ITP graduates. Their experience includes onsite community interpreting, observations, and paid professional development opportunities.

- **Sorenson VRS** - www.sorensonconnections.com
  - Sorenson VRS offers mentoring opportunities for both pre-certified and certified interpreters. Applicants must apply and pass a skills assessment. Once hired, interpreters will have access to a variety of professional development at no charge to the employee including a language mentor program, workshops and webinars, and a week-long intensive mentoring course.

- **Sorenson Community Interpreting Services** – www.sorensonconnections.com
  - Sorenson Community Interpreting Services offers a program designed to "Bridge the Gap" from graduation to work. It is open to interpreters who hold a provisional interpreting license from the state of New Mexico. The program consists of interpreting assignments as directed, teamed assignments, observations, and completion of the Sorenson Language Mentor Program. Workshops and webinars are also provided free of charge. Participants are selected through a highly competitive application process.

National, Regional, and State Conferences

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) holds national conferences biannually and regional conferences in the alternating years, and most state affiliate chapters hold annual state conferences. Information can be found on their website: www.RID.org.

Distance-Based and On-Site Programs

A very large number of entities offer professional development opportunities online and via distance. Some are structured, cohort-model programs resulting in certificates of completion or degrees, and others offer stand-alone workshops available for streaming or on DVDs. Just a few of the entities offering these opportunities are listed below. A simple internet search will provide many more.

- National Deaf Center - www.nationaldeafcenter.org

- Gallaudet University Regional Center – West at Ohlone College - www.ohlone.edu/org/gurc

- CATIE Center at St. Catherine University - www.stkate.edu/academics/shas/asl-interpreting-department/catie-center

- Certificate in Healthcare Interpreting at NTID - www.ntid.rit.edu/aslie/certificate-healthcare-interpreting

- Mental Health Interpreter Training - www.mhit.org

- VRS Interpreting Institute - www.vrsii.com

- Signs of Development - www.signs-of-development.org

- CEUs on the Go - www.ceusonthego.com

- YourVolution - yourvolution.com

- Treehouse Video - www.treehousevideo.com