RURAL INTERPRETING SERVICES PROJECT (RISP)
CERTIFICATION READINESS TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
Department of American Sign Language
& Interpreting Studies

COLORADO
Department of Human Services
Colorado Commission for the Deaf,
Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind

INFORMATIONAL MEETING
A live informational online meeting for interested participants is scheduled for
Thursday, March 7th from 5-6 pm

Click here to JOIN THE MEETING

RURAL INTERPRETER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY
Certification Readiness Training

In 2018, the Colorado General Assembly appropriated funding to the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (CCDHHDB) to address shortages in the availability of qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in rural areas of the state. CCDHHDB has since implemented Colorado's Rural Interpreting Services Project (RISP). One of the objectives of the funding is to prepare participants for entry-level competencies in ASL-English interpreting and professional certification in Colorado. To meet this goal, CCDHHDB has partnered with the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies (ASLIS) to develop and implement the training. This program is limited to 20 participants who:

- live in rural* Colorado or are willing to accept assignments in rural* areas of Colorado;
- demonstrate ASL-English communicative competence
- are not yet credentialed or have credentials not currently recognized in Colorado for community interpreting (i.e., EIPA);
- will commit to a one-year, mostly online training program;
- will commit, after the training, to contracting with CCDHHDB's RISP program to provide 40 hours of work as a certified interpreter or as a paid apprentice; and
- will commit to pursuing a Colorado-recognized interpreter certification.

** For purposes of this project, the RISP Pilot considers areas outside of the
Front Range as rural, including Grand Junction and Pueblo.*

The Certification Readiness Training will begin working with selected practitioners at a multi-day onsite intensive training tentatively scheduled for August 2019 in Grand Junction. Online learning modules facilitated by ASL language and interpreting specialists will begin September 2019. Training will be personalized, based on pre-diagnostic assessment and will provide mentoring opportunities that will build on current knowledge and skill, and support the development of ASL and interpreting skills. This program will be available for RID CEUs and a Certificate of Completion.

CRITERIA TO APPLY

- must be a resident in or willing to commute to rural* areas of Colorado;
- has access to a computer, internet service, and a web camera;
- has basic computer skills including Word processing;
- has ability to learn and use videoconference platforms for synchronous mentoring at a distance;
- commit to complete pre and post interpreting evaluations;
- commit to attend a face-to-face language and interpreting intensive program, currently scheduled for August 2019;
- commit to contracting with CCDHHDB's RISP program to provide 40 hours of interpreting services as either a certified interpreter or an apprentice (whichever is applicable) over the course of two years after completion of the training;
- commit to taking a Colorado-recognized community interpreting credential exam within one year of completing the training; and
- allow reports regarding one's progress in the program to be reported to CCDHHDB.

APPLICATION PROCESS

There are two steps to the application process:

1. Complete the online application and submit
   Deadline to Apply: March 29th

2. Once the application has been received an email will be sent to you with instructions on how to complete a required ASL-English screening to determine your readiness for the program.

For more information on the training see the FAQs on the next page.

For questions contact:
Susan E. Brown, M.Ed., Ed:K12
Project Director, RISP Certification Readiness Training
970-351-3314
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Who is eligible to apply to the Certification Readiness Training?

This training program is open to candidates who demonstrate ASL-English communicative competence, a working understanding of the profession of interpreting, and are not yet credentialed or have credentials not currently recognized in Colorado for community interpreting (i.e., EIPA).

Am I able to apply to the Certification Readiness Training if I am an educational interpreter?

Yes. The goal of the program, however, is to train people to become qualified to work as community interpreters. Participants will be required to complete an apprenticeship or, if applicable, certified interpreting services for 40 hours over the course of 2 years after the completion of the training.

Do I have to complete all modules within the Certification Readiness Training?

Yes. Each module is offered sequentially and builds on prior learning.

What topics will be covered in the modules?

Examples of topics covered in modules:

- Process of Demand Control Schema
- Discourse Analysis and Message Coherence
- Ten-step process
- ASL-English Contrastive Analysis
- Semantics for Interpreters
- Spatial and Discourse Mapping
- Ethical Decision-Making

Participants will also be encouraged to participate in community engaged learning and service activities with members of their local Deaf community. This will encourage further ASL skill development and contribute to local communities. These activities will be built strategically into the learning activities throughout several of the modules.

How long is each module?

Each module is designed to be either six or eight weeks with short breaks between modules. It is estimated that participants will need to commit approximately 45-65 hours per module to complete the various activities associated with the training.

Are the modules independent study or scheduled learning?

The learning modules are designed to meet the learning needs of working adults. They are set up to be interactive with the module specialist and with other participants in the program. Each module is designed for online learning and participants will be provided with a course map that outlines the required work and the deadlines for the work to be completed. As well, module facilitators, interpreting and/or language specialist will provide in-depth feedback on your interpreting work.

Do I have to attend the face-to-face training?
Yes, the face-to-face training is foundational to the online learning. Travel expenses, food and lodging will be covered by the program.

Am I required to take a certification exam, e.g., RID NIC, at the end of the training?
The goal of the training is to prepare participants to provide quality ASL-English interpreting services to deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind consumers in rural Colorado. If a participant has a 4-year degree, they would be encouraged to take the RID certification exam at the end of the training. Other Colorado community-based interpreting credentials that do not require a 4-year degree may be an option at the end of the training, depending on what happens with a bill that is currently pending in the legislature (H.B. 19-1069).

At a minimum, training participants will be required to complete a post-evaluation at the end of the year-long training. A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who complete the training and demonstrate progress towards improving their interpreting skills. As well, RISP programing will continue to support participants after the training by providing mentorships and team interpreting opportunities within their community.

Are there costs to this training?
Participants are expected to incur expenses estimated to be approximately $100 over the course of the training to cover books and materials.

What is the process for the application screening?
There are two parts to the Certification Readiness Program. First, complete the **online application**. Once your application has been submitted you will receive an email with instructions on how to complete an ASL-English screening to determine your readiness for the program.

What if I don't qualify for the Certification Readiness Program but am interested in becoming an interpreter?
The University of Northern Colorado Department of ASL and Interpreting Studies (ASLIS) offers a 4-year degree in ASL-English interpreting. As a UNC ASLIS BA student, you may be eligible for a RISP scholarship during the last two years of your degree work, depending on whether the General Assembly continues to fund RISP. Contact Kate Beilmann for more information.

What assistance is available for paying for interpreter certification exams?
Training participants who complete Certification Readiness Training will be eligible for one-time funding to take interpreter certification exams (both written and performance test).

Will Certification Readiness Training be offered again?
At this time, the RISP Pilot is funded through June 2020. The Certification Readiness Training may be offered again, depending on funding.

The **University of Northern Colorado** (UNC) is a comprehensive university with a broad range of degrees at all levels, offered both on campus and online. The university enrolls approximately 12,000 students yearly, with around 1,500 faculty and staff from around the world. UNC is a research institution offering a wide range of graduate and undergraduate degree programs. Its primary mission is to provide quality instruction while simultaneously developing focused research and public service roles. The university is competitive with the best institutions of its type in the nation through systematic devotion to excellence. All degree programs (baccalaureate through doctoral) are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (formerly the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools).

UNC **Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies** (ASLIS) houses four areas of study built around American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf Culture, and related fields of interpreting and teaching. The ASLIS programs offer highly regarded curricula with input from national experts, taught by nationally recognized instructional staff, and are offered through multiple delivery methods.

UNC **Extended Campus** manages the off campus and online programs with more than sixty-degree programs and dozens of professional renewal courses, including the ASLIS distance educational graduate and undergraduate programs. The Extended Campus staff also provides technical advice and support to faculty and staff for online courses, course supplements and web page support. This UNC unit ensures industry-standard accessibility for individuals with disabilities who are engaged with distance educational opportunities.