

## Speaker Bios

<p><b>Agustín Servin de la Mora</b></p>	<p><b>Agustín Servin de la Mora</b> is the president of DE LA MORA Institute of Interpretation. He was born and raised in Mexico City, Mexico, and has been a professional freelance and staff interpreter for the last 28 years. He is one of the Supervisor Raters for the National Center for State Courts and has been a lead rater for the federal and consortium oral exams for court interpreters. He was the lead interpreter for the Ninth Judicial Circuit for over a decade, served as member of the Project Advisory Committee responsible for the creation of the National Standards for Healthcare Interpreter Training Programs for the NCIHC. He was a member of the Florida Court Interpreter Certification Board and a voting member of the Technical Committee of the National Consortium for Interpreter Certification. He is a state and federally certified court interpreter, as well as a certified medical interpreter. He has been a consultant for the Administrative Offices of the State Courts, conducting orientation seminars and advanced skills workshops for interpreters in at least 15 states. He has been featured as a speaker and presenter in several national conventions, including those of NAJIT, ATA, IMIA, and NASCA.</p>
<p><b>Alicia Roeth</b></p>	<p><b>Alicia Roeth</b> has been a healthcare interpreter for more than 20 years, and is certified as both CMI and CHI. She currently manages the language access department at Children’s Nebraska, as well as teaching in the Interpreting certificate program at Metropolitan Community College, Omaha.</p>
<p><b>Cruz Cabrera</b></p>	<p><b>Cruz Cabrera</b>, Interpretation and Linguistic Manager, World Speaks Omaha Cruz Cabrera holds a biology degree from UNO and a Master of Public Health from Creighton University. Her professional background includes work in the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors. In her current role, she desires to serve the community by bridging differences in the community across culture and language.</p>
<p><b>Deborah Cates</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Cates</b> (Deb) is the Language Resources Coordinator at the Iowa School for the Deaf. She oversees the administration of the SLPI program and educational interpreter professional development in the state of Iowa. She is also the President of the National Association of Interpreters in Education, and the Iowa representative for the TASK-12 project. Her current research pertains to the skills of interpreters in educational settings and how their skills influence student learning outcomes as well as the benefits of Deaf language coaches for Deaf children in schools. Deb has a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, Davis, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Deaf Studies with an Interpreting Emphasis from California State University, Northridge. She is a licensed interpreter in both Iowa and Nebraska.</p>
<p><b>Ernest Niño-Murcia</b></p>	<p><b>Ernest Niño-Murcia</b> is a state and federally certified court interpreter based in Des Moines, Iowa. Outside of court, he has interpreted for public figures such as Newt Gingrich, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds. As a speaker and trainer, he has presented live and online sessions through organizations including the National Center for State Courts, NAJIT, the University of Arizona’s National Center for Interpretation and the U.S. Department of Justice, among others. Additionally, Ernest is a Jeopardy! Champion (2012), whose greatest achievement on the show was beating an attorney to the buzzer to answer ‘codefendant’ in the ‘11-letter words’ category.</p>
<p><b>Giovanna Carriero-Contreras</b></p>	<p><b>Giovanna Carriero-Contreras</b> is a recognized leader in the language services industry with over 30 years of experience as a translator, interpreter, trainer, and national/international speaker. She is the founder of Cesco Linguistic Services and T360nBeyond, and a driving force in advancing the professionalization of interpreting.</p> <p>Giovanna is a community and legal interpreter and is a Certified Healthcare Interpreter. She co-authored <i>The Community Interpreter International</i> and <i>The Medical Interpreter</i> and played a pivotal role in developing the AAITE National Code of Ethics, expanding conversations on interpreter ethics in collaboration with T&amp;I associations including NAJIT.</p>

	<p>Giovanna is Chair-Elect, Acting Chair and founding member of the American Association of Interpreters and Translators in Education (AAITE), and continues to shape the field through her leadership and advocacy. She serves on the ASTM F43 Standards Committee on Language Services and is Chief of the U.S. Delegation to ISO TC37/SC5 on interpreting standards. She is also a member of the ATA Standards Committee, the ALC Language Access and Advocacy Committees, the Colorado Language Access Coalition Steering Committee, and the National Language Access Coalition, among others.</p> <p>Her experience as a practitioner deeply informs her teaching, and she is recognized for empowering interpreters to think critically, continuously refine their skills, navigate complex scenarios, and elevate their practice.</p> <p>A recipient of the 2020 Bill Daniels Ethical Leader of the Year Award, Giovanna continues to shape the field through advocacy, education, and a deep belief in the power of language to foster equity and access. She is dedicated to advancing professional ethics, competences and skills, and language access initiatives—especially in response to the evolving impact of AI technologies and legislative changes.</p>
<b>Falcón Restrepo</b>	<p><b>Falcon Restrepo-Ramos</b> is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He teaches translation and interpretation in the Department of Modern Languages. His work focuses on issues in Spanish linguistics and translation with the use of natural language processing technologies.</p>
<b>Ignacio Ruelas Avila</b>	<p><b>Ignacio Ruelas</b>, originally from Mexico, is a doctoral candidate in Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Mexico, and a Master of Public Policy from the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile. Ignacio works as a student research assistant at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR), Nebraska's leading source of expert data and analysis for public policy, management, and nonprofit decision-making. In this role, he assists with literature reviews, data gathering, coding, analysis, and research assessments for the director. He also contributed to data organization for the Six Regions, One Nebraska regional initiative. Ignacio's research interests include fiscal decentralization in Latin America, public policies in education, and comparative public finances. He was recently recognized with an Honorable Mention in the Mexican National Award of Public Finances Research.</p>
<b>Ivan López</b>	<p><b>Ivan Lopéz</b> is a certified Healthcare Interpreter at Children's Nebraska and the Interpretation and Linguistics Strategist at World Speaks. He holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish Translation and Interpretation, French Culture and History, and Health Sciences. With experience across medical, community and educational contexts, Ivan combines practical expertise with a passion for training, developing resources that prepare future interpreters. His work reflects a commitment to equitable language access, professional ethics, and cultural understanding.</p>
<b>Janet Bonet</b>	<p>Session Moderator, <b>Janet Bonet</b>, graduated in 1978 from the University of the Americas in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico Anthropology Program, with a minor in Spanish specializing in translation an interpretation through the University of Nebraska at Lincoln study abroad program, thus receiving a bachelor's degree at both institutions. After returning to her hometown, she entered the University of Nebraska at Omaha master's program. Her life changed direction before graduating, but Janet attained what was then called an ABT (all but thesis) level in Sociology with a focus on Racial and Ethnic Studies. She has over 35 years of experience in the field of English &lt;&gt; Spanish interpretation and translation, is one of the founders of NATI, served on the board of NAJIT, participated in the decade-long effort for professionalization and certification of court and medical interpreters internationally, nationally, and in Nebraska. Since 1984, Janet has served on over 15 community-based organizations' boards and governmental commissions, striving to help all people live complete lives in a just society through meaningful language access in all public settings. She is in her third term as a commissioner on the</p>

	<p>Nebraska Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law. She is sole proprietor of her business, Protrans. She misses Jaime Bonet, her beloved husband, and the support he so generously gave her through all her activism and family life.</p>
<p><b>Jeck-Jenard Navarrete</b> JD PhD</p>	<p><b>Jeck-Jenard G. Navarrete</b> holds a J.D. in International Law and a Ph.D. in Linguistics. He is a federally certified court interpreter and is also certified by the National Consortium for State Courts. In Court Interpretation and Digital Transcription, he is a nationally recognized speaker and trainer. He has served as a consultant to the Defense Language Institute and was a member of the teaching staff for the National Center for Interpretation and for the last 24 years has been the staff interpreter for the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nebraska. Jeck is a published author and a professor of Spanish, French, and English as a Second Language at various universities and colleges. He is an active member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Interpreter Advisory Committee. He has served the National Association for Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) as the Chair for the Transcription &amp; Translation Ensemble Task Force and as a member of the Nominations Committee. Jeck is a founding member of the Nebraska Association for Translators &amp; Interpreters (NATI) and served as a member of NATI's Board of Directors.</p>
<p><b>Joanna Larson</b></p>	<p><b>Joanna Larson</b> is the current Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI). She received her B.A. in Spanish from Oklahoma State University in 2015. Following this, she began interpreting for the Oklahoma community through a medical interpreting program at Tulsa Community College. She received additional interpreting training through the Bridging The Gap program in 2016. She later became a certified medical interpreter, achieving the title CMI-Spanish through the NBCMI in 2021. Ms. Larson works as a Language Lead and Spanish interpreter for CHI Health and is passionate about ensuring equal access to medical care for all patients.</p>
<p><b>Julie Delkamiller</b></p>	<p><b>Julie Delkamiller</b>, Ed.D., CI/CT, is currently an associate professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha training individuals to be teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or sign language interpreters. She holds a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership, a master's degree in Learning Disabilities and a bachelor's degree in Deaf Education/Social Sciences. Julie previously taught secondary students at the Iowa School for the Deaf and has been teaching college students at UNO for twenty years. Her research interests have included the Nicaraguan Sign Language, educational interpreting skills, and the impact of mentoring. Julie has interpreted in academic, religious, video relay, and theatre settings.</p>
<p><b>Laura García-Hein</b></p>	<p><b>Laura García-Hein</b> has been the staff interpreter for the U.S. District Courts in the District of Nebraska since March 2007. She attended the University of Costa Rica and graduated with a double major in English and French and later obtained a Juris Doctor degree. Ms. Hein has a Master of Laws degree with an emphasis in international law and alternative dispute resolution from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. She has been a guest presenter and panelist at multiple interpreter and translator conferences, and she accumulates over 25 years of experience in teaching, designing, and providing training courses in law, conflict management, communication, and interpreting skills. She is an active member of the American Translators Association (ATA), the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), where she previously served as a director, and the Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters (NATI). She is the top provider nationwide of remote interpreting services through the U.S. Courts Telephone Interpreting Program (TIP).</p>
<p><b>Mara Youdelman</b></p>	<p><b>Mara Youdelman</b> is Managing Director for Federal Advocacy at the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) and recognized as a national expert on language access. She served as Founding Chair and Commissioner of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters and rejoined CCHI as a Commissioner in 2023. At NHeLP, Mara coordinated a national coalition to develop a consensus-driven agenda to improve language access policies and funding. Mara is co-author of Ensuring Linguistic Access in Health Care Settings: Legal Rights and Responsibilities and, from The Commonwealth Fund, three reports on promising practices for providing language services. She has authored a 50-state</p>

	survey of state statutes and regulations on language access and written about how Medicaid can pay for language services.
<b>Mihai Bledea</b>	<p><b>Mihai Bledea</b> is a professional polyglot speaker with 32 years of project management client experience, federal, state and county court interpretation with the Federal Court of Interpreters Northern District Chicago, Lake, DuPage or McHenry County Court, Fort Wayne Federal Court and healthcare medical interpretation and translation tasks with Endeavor Health, Rush University, Lutheran General Hospital, Hartford Hospital, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Amita Health.</p> <p>Expertise at translation and revision of different types of EU related texts with the European Commission, European Economic and Social Committee, European Court of Auditors, Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union, Luxembourg, European agencies and institutes. Certified Cleared Category 3 Linguist by Mission Essential, Federal / State Court Language Proficient Interpreter and Certified Translator for Romanian, European French, Canadian French (Quebecois), African French, Mauritius French, Seychelles French, Tahiti French, Guyana French, French Creole, Italian, Moldavian and Latin.</p> <p>Mihai is a multi-skilled, reliable &amp; talented translator with a proven ability to translate written documents from a source language to a target language, including Mac Dictation and Dragon Nuance.</p>
<b>Mila Golovine</b>	<p><b>Ludmila Golovine</b> is the President and CEO of MasterWord, a top ranked LSP globally. Dedicating over 30 years to the language industry, she is one of the founding members of the Interpreting SAFE-AI Task Force. Ludmila also serves as the Strategic Partnerships Manager for Global Community Programs of Women in Localization and is a founding member of the Global Coalition of Language Rights. Her work has been recognized with the NCIHC 2024 Language Access Champion Award, Congressional Recognition G7 “Excellence in International Service” award, and Ernst &amp; Young Entrepreneur of the Year Gulf Coast Area regional winner (2023).</p>
<b>Milly Golia</b>	<p><b>Milly Golia</b> is a Ph.D. Linguistics and Translation at Jaume I, Spain.</p> <p>After earning her Master’s in Legal Translation from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Argentina, she received two certificates in Global Operations Management and Applied Project Management from the University of California, Irvine. She is the Founder and CEO of Bureaucom LLC, which provides written and oral translations in over 40 languages. Additionally, she developed the Legal Spanish Interpreting Program for the Certificate Program at the University of California, Irvine.</p> <p>Milly is also the creator of Take5steps®, a training program that provides professional training to translators and interpreters as well as a course of study for students who want to become professionals in medical, legal, and educational fields.</p>
<b>Nora Díaz</b>	<p><b>Nora Díaz</b> is an English-Spanish translator and conference interpreter who enjoys using technology and finding ways to increase productivity, which combined with her love of teaching, has led her to share what she has learned through a blog, articles, webinars and workshops. Nora is the Chair of the American Translators Association Professional Development Committee. She is also one of the co-organizers of the AI in Translation Summit, the Innovation in Translation Summit, and the Innovation in Interpreting Summit. She has co-authored a book called The Translator’s Tool Box. Nora was listed as one of the Top 30 Women in the Language Industry by Multilingual Magazine in 2023 and was the recipient of the American Translators Association’s Innovation Award in 2024 and featured in Multilingual Magazine's 2025 Language Industry Influencer issue.</p>
<b>Paulina Campos Guzman</b>	<p><b>Paulina Campos Guzman</b> - Program Manager, World Speaks Omaha</p> <p>A Chilean professional with international experience in the aviation and educational industry, having traveled extensively and engaged directly with a wide range of cultures. She is deeply committed to community development and has worked closely with neighborhood groups and nonprofit organizations to support initiatives focused on language access, food security, and education. Paulina is a dedicated advocate for social equity and inclusion, with a vision for a society in which every individual is valued and meaningfully represented.</p>

<p><b>Piet Koene</b></p>	<p><b>Piet Koene</b> is an NBCMI certified medical interpreter as well as a state (IA &amp; MN) and federally certified court interpreter. He has an M.A. degree in translation and interpretation from the Monterey (California) Institute of International Studies and an M.A. degree in history with a concentration in Latin American studies from the University of Toronto. He has been a full-time professor of Spanish, Translation and Interpreting at Northwestern College, Orange City, IA, since 2000, where he directs the online legal and medical interpreting certificate programs. In addition, he also works as a freelance interpreter and translator and teaches for the Masters of Conference Interpreting program at Glendon College of York University in Toronto, Canada.</p>
<p><b>Ronda Rankin</b></p>	<p><b>Ronda Rankin</b> is the Founder and Director of Deaf-Centric Hospital, a visionary initiative aimed at improving healthcare access for the Deaf community. A nationally certified sign language interpreter (RID) with over 22 years of experience, she is licensed in 14 states and specializes in healthcare and mental health interpreting.</p> <p>Ronda holds national certification from the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) and completed advanced training in mental health settings. She currently serves as Interpreter Services Coordinator at Children’s Nebraska in Omaha, working to ensure clear, compassionate communication between patients, families, and providers.</p> <p>From 2017 to 2023, Ronda was Practicum Supervisor for the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Interpreter Preparation Program, mentoring future interpreters. Across all roles, she is driven by a commitment to language access and inclusive, patient-centered care.</p>
<p><b>Vladimir Bazan</b></p>	<p><b>Vladimir Bazan</b> is a native of Lima, Peru but Nebraskan at heart for the last 25 years. He is currently certified as a Court interpreter at State and Federal levels and formerly certified as medical interpreter. Vladimir holds a bachelor’s degree with a double major in Criminal Justice and Business Administration, has been a professional interpreter for over 2 decades and he loves to share his knowledge and experience with colleagues and future interpreters.</p>
<p><b>Yuridia Garcia Igbokwe</b></p>	<p><b>Yuridia Garcia Igbokwe</b> is a seasoned legal and community advocate with over 20 years of experience serving Nebraska’s bilingual, immigrant, and multicultural populations. She is the Founder and CEO of Lincua Academy, a state-accredited language and workforce training center based in Omaha, Nebraska. Under her leadership, Lincua has empowered hundreds of Nebraskans with practical skills in legal interpretation, paralegal studies, and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Yuridia also serves as the Director of Communications for the Heartland Integration Center, where she advances public outreach and education initiatives to support immigrants and refugees across the state. In addition, she is the Community Outreach Director for Barwo &amp; Igbokwe Law Firm and a board member of the Nebraska Association of Translators and Interpreters (NATI).</p> <p>Her areas of expertise include immigration law, bilingual workforce development, interpreter ethics and training, cultural competency, and nonprofit advocacy. She is a passionate connector of communities and has led multilingual fundraising campaigns, legislative outreach efforts, and cross-sector partnerships to increase access to opportunity for underserved groups.</p> <p>Yuridia is driven by a mission to create inclusive systems that reflect the strength and diversity of Nebraska’s people. She believes strongly in civic engagement, public service, and education as tools for empowerment and equity.</p>