



thank you.

**Indigenous Interpreting+, a service of Natividad Medical Foundation,
Sends Delegation to Mexico To Expand Knowledge Base to
Improve the Quality of Indigenous Language Interpreting Services**

Salinas, California, United States, July 08, 2014 – Natividad Medical Foundation is sending an **Indigenous Interpreting+** delegation to Mexico in late July with the aim of researching best practices for training indigenous interpreters and successfully communicating with indigenous peoples in complex western healthcare and legal systems.

Indigenous Interpreting+, a service of Natividad Medical Foundation, specializes in interpreting services and training indigenous interpreters who speak native languages from Mexico and Central America. It is one of the few programs of its kind in the United States (U.S) meeting the demand for healthcare providers, courts and other agencies to effectively communicate with indigenous people.

The ultimate goal of the delegation's visit is to improve the quality of indigenous interpreting for patients at Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, California, and throughout the Salinas Valley and other agricultural and urban areas across the U.S. with similar immigrant populations. One specific hoped-for outcome is to gather data to continue developing English-Spanish-Indigenous language medical glossaries and materials to better equip physicians, healthcare providers and community service providers to communicate effectively with indigenous patients and clients.

"California's Central Coast is home to more than 27,000 indigenous immigrants and their families, many working in the Salinas Valley fields of 'America's Salad Bowl,'" said Linda Ford, President & CEO of Natividad Medical Foundation. "As the safety net hospital for Monterey County, these are our patients. Several years ago, we recognized the need to train qualified indigenous interpreters in order to provide quality patient care, and we quickly realized this is an important service we can offer to communities around the country."

The **Indigenous Interpreting+** delegation will visit the state of Oaxaca in southern Mexico, the birthplace of many recently-arrived indigenous immigrants now working and living in California. The delegation will meet with healthcare providers and interpreters and visit healthcare clinics delivering care to indigenous communities in order to better understand how to bridge the communication gap between western medicine and indigenous languages. The group will then spend several days in Mexico City, meeting with indigenous interpreting and training experts from Mexico's National Indigenous Languages Institute (INALI).

To date, Natividad's **Indigenous Interpreting+** program has trained 88 indigenous speakers from California, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Texas and Minnesota who speak indigenous languages from Mexico and Central America. The program has begun working with

healthcare, governmental and other agencies across the United States to provide training and interpreting services.

Led by Victor Sosa, a Certified Medical and Court Interpreter and Co-Founder and Director of **Indigenous Interpreting+**, the delegation also includes:

- Katharine Allen, MATI, Co-President, Interpret America and Senior Advisor to **Indigenous Interpreting+**
- Chad Harris, MD, Chair, Clinical Information Technology, Natividad Medical Center and Assistant Clinical Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
- Maggie Eaton, J.D., Ph.D., Former Board of Trustees Member, Natividad Medical Center and Retired Professor, Stanford School of Medicine and Stanford School of Business
- Linda Ford, M.A., President & CEO, Natividad Medical Foundation
- Kelly O'Keefe, M.D., Ph.D., FCAP, CEO, Adaptive Clinical Solutions, Inc. and Chair, Board of Trustees, Natividad Medical Center

For more information about Natividad Medical Foundation's **Indigenous Interpreting+** service, visit www.interpretnmf.com or call toll-free 1-855-662-5300.

About Natividad Medical Foundation

Natividad Medical Foundation philanthropically supports Natividad Medical Center in its mission to continually improve the health status of our community through access to high quality healthcare services, regardless of ability to pay. Natividad Medical Foundation is passionate about raising funds to support access to healthcare for babies, children and families in our community. Established in 1988, Natividad Medical Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. For more information or to donate, visit www.natividadfoundation.org.

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