

The Indigenous Interpreter® Training Goes to Mexico for Lenguas 2017

On September 28-30, the Mexican translation and interpreting professions met for the first time under one roof at Lenguas 2017. The conference was held in Mexico City in the incomparable Antiguo Colegio del San Idelfonso art museum. While sitting under floor-to-ceiling murals depicting the meeting of Mexico's indigenous cultures with colonizing Europeans, current-day conference interpreters, translators and indigenous language interpreters got to know each other at this landmark event.



Lenguas 2017 participants gather for a group photo on the Antiguo Colegio de San Idelfonso's stunning main stage.

Indigenous Interpreting+® was there as well. Licensed trainer Katharine Allen and co-trainer Doris Alfaro taught a two-day, 14-hour workshop, adapting and translating key topics from the 60-hour **The Indigenous Interpreter®**. Doris, an indigenous Zapotec interpreter in community and healthcare settings in Mexico, attended the inaugural training in the United States in January 2017. The workshop offered at Lenguas 2017 represents the first time this training has been offered outside of the United States.



The Indigenous Interpreter® training workshop at Lenguas 2017 was standing-room only.

Doris provided a critical link between the program in the United States and Mexico's fast-growing community interpreting profession, made up almost entirely of indigenous language speakers. In addition, Georganne Weller, a founding member of Mexico's newly-created Civil Association for Public Service and Community Interpreter and Translators, helped frame the training by providing an opening talk on the state of indigenous interpreting in Mexico, including existing legislation, training and activities.

19 indigenous interpreters representing 10 languages and variants successfully completed the training, which covered:

- Introduction to indigenous interpreting
- Consecutive interpreting and self evaluation
- Community interpreting protocols
- Community interpreting ethics
- Cultural awareness for community interpreters
- Glossary creation in Spanish/indigenous languages
- Strategic mediation model

Hector Santaella Barrera and Alejandra Hernandez Leon, representatives of the community interpreting association, also sat in on the class. Their association partnered with Lenguas 2017 to spread the word about the training and is planning follow-up training to participants moving forward.



Participants during an activity on positioning protocols for community interpreters.

The group celebrated the end of the training with a formal certificate of training ceremony and a group picture.



*Participants from **The Indigenous Interpreter®** training at Lenguas 2017 celebrate the successful completion of the two-day workshop.*

One of the Mazotec interpreters expressed her happiness with the training:
“I want to thank you and Doris for providing this information to us. You taught us with love and expertise, but also friendship. You listened to us. I want to thank you for giving us some moments that will last forever.”



The Indigenous Interpreter® co-trainers Doris Alfaro and Katharine Allen with a trainee upon receiving her certificate of training.



Indigenous Interpreting+® representatives Jennifer Leidich Bonilla, Doris Alfaro and Katharine Allen at Lenguas 2017