



## **The Indigenous Interpreter™**

### **A Credentialed Training Program sponsored by Indigenous Interpreting+<sup>SM</sup>**

Interpreters of indigenous languages who seek an avenue to professionalization should consider the credential offered upon successful completion of a unique 21-module, 63-hour training program: **The Indigenous Interpreter™**.

A credential is a document, such as a certificate, that attests to an achievement or qualification. The credential offered for **The Indigenous Interpreter™** is a valuable credential for these reasons:

- The credential comes from one of the first national interpreter services exclusively dedicated to indigenous language interpreting: **Indigenous Interpreting+<sup>SM</sup>**.
- **Indigenous Interpreting+<sup>SM</sup>** is a service of Natividad Medical Foundation, a 501(c)(3) philanthropic entity that supports the mission of Natividad Medical Center, a public, safety-net hospital in Monterey County, California.
- **Indigenous Interpreting+<sup>SM</sup>** serves the nation, including federal agencies, the Health Care Interpreting Network (which serves 15 states), federal, state and local courts, hospitals, school districts, public transit, language companies, national and local nonprofit services, law offices and other entities.
- ACTFL language proficiency testing is a prerequisite for the training program.
- **The Indigenous Interpreter™** curriculum has been developed by experts in the field in conjunction with indigenous community members and interpreters and includes a 400+-page Training Manual Textbook, a 150+-page Activity Workbook, along with extensive supporting training materials.
- **The Indigenous Interpreter™** is the most comprehensive, in-depth program of its kind in the nation.
- To date, participants from three countries and three U.S. states have attended the program.

The training program was developed to overcome gaps in currently available programs that do not address the often unique challenges that many indigenous interpreters face when they attempt to enter the interpreting profession. The curriculum trains indigenous interpreters on interpreting ethics, protocols, modes, intervention skills, cultural mediation and the development of language proficiency in healthcare and community services settings. It includes instruction in consecutive relay and simultaneous interpreting in healthcare and community settings.

Graduates of the program receive **The Indigenous Interpreter™** National Credential: Level 1 Qualification. The credential represents testing of knowledge gained from the 63-hour training, English language proficiency testing and attendance.

A training credential does not represent certification, such as the CCHI or NBCMI national medical certifications or court interpreter certification. However, this training program helps participants acquire the knowledge and skills they will need to take a certification exam. It is also a valuable credential for employment and contract work.