

Voices of the Community: A Spanish Interpretation Classroom Project

Effective communication across languages and cultures is increasingly vital in the dynamic healthcare landscape. With the rising Hispanic population in the U.S., there is a need for medical interpreters. However, two primary challenges emerge in training future interpreters: their linguistic and cultural knowledge and the availability of suitable training materials.

To bridge this gap, students completed a classroom-based project where they developed a book containing dialogues across over ten medical specialties. This book is complemented by a website that offers downloadable audio resources for practicing medical interpretation. The project enhanced the students' linguistic and cultural skills in medical interpretation and fostered deeper engagement with the Hispanic community, especially in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, as dialogues were crafted in collaboration with local medical professionals.

This presentation will delve into the intricacies of interpreting medical Spanish, emphasizing the importance of tailored educational resources for heritage speakers in professional settings and highlighting the benefits of community projects.