INTERPRETERS' INK.

A Newsletter of Interpreters, Inc.

September 8th, 2026

sgardner@interpreters24hours.com| Bus: (816) 761-5334| www.Interpreters24hours.com

A Journey of Language & Purpose

Meet Hanner Cepero, One of Our Newest Missouri State Certified Interpreters





Hello, my name is Hanner Cepero. I'm a Spanish-English interpreter. I was born and raised in Cuba, where I first learned English before coming to the United States twelve years ago.

I became an interpreter because I wanted to learn more about the legal and medical fields and, above all, to help others communicate effectively when it matters most. To pursue that goal, I completed the year-long Foreign Language Interpreting program at Maple Woods, where I studied under Sara Gardner. From there, I set my goal on becoming certified, and after much hard work, I proudly earned my Missouri State Certification in August, 2026.

In This Issue:

- Get to Know Our Contract Interpreters
- Languages Offered
- What We Do / Request an Interpreter
- Keep Learning!

Languages Offered

Arabic	Karen
Burmese	Kinyarwanda
Cantonese	Laotian
Chin	Mandarin Chinese
Chuukese	Nepali
Dari	Pashto
Farsi	Russian
French	Spanish
Hakha Chin	Somali
Kachin	Swahili
Korean	Taiwanese
	Vietnamese

Can you guess these languages?

1. ¿Dónde está la estación?
A. Italian
B. Portuguese
C. Spanish
D. Taiwanese

2. ဒေစညာထီနံညန့်?
Dee-nay nay-kaung ba-tha-la?
A. Burmese
B. Hindu
C. Arabic
D. Vietnamese

3. Как тебя зовут?
Kak vas za-VOOT?
A. Romanian
B. Swedish
C. Russian
D. Ukrainian

Check your answers on Page 3

Meet Duc Nguyen, Our Vietnamese Interpreter



Hello, my name is Duc Nguyen. I'm a Vietnamese interpreter. The work begins long before the appointment. Preparation includes reviewing documents, reading background materials, researching unfamiliar terminology, creating vocabulary lists, and confirming assignment details.

Interpreting is more than translating words—it's about conveying meaning accurately, removing language barriers, and ensuring every voice is heard. Good interpreting may sound effortless, but behind every successful session are preparation, experience, focus, and dedication.

3 Things That Make Vietnamese Stand Out

1. Vietnamese doesn't have one simple word for "you."
Speakers often use family terms such as anh (older brother), chị (older sister), or em (younger sibling) when addressing people who aren't actually family.
2. The same Vietnamese word can have different meanings in different regions.
For example, ốm can mean "sick" in Northern Vietnam, but "thin" in Southern Vietnam.
3. Vietnamese distinguishes the maternal and paternal sides of the family.
The terms nội and ngoại distinguish relatives on the father's side from those on the mother's side—for example, ông nội is paternal grandfather, while ông ngoại is maternal grandfather.

Ready to Keep Learning?

MCC Maple Woods

Turn your bilingual skills into a certified, in-demand profession

Ever thought about becoming a professional interpreter? Interpreters, Inc. founder Sara Gardner teaches the year-long Foreign Language Interpreting program at MCC Maple Woods — the same program that has launched dozens of certified court and medical interpreters across Missouri, including several on our own team.

Over two semesters you'll build the real-world skills the profession demands: consecutive, simultaneous, and sight translation; ethics and professional standards; note-taking; and hands-on practice that prepares you for the Missouri State written and oral certification exams as well as the CCHI and NBCMI medical certifications. The program welcomes speakers of any language — coursework is taught so you can apply every skill to your own working language.

Class of 2027 began August 19, 2026. Interested in a future cohort? Reach out to Sara at sgardner@interpreters24hours.com for more information.

SCAN ME

Upcoming National Center of Interpretation Webinars

Sat, Sep 19
Consecutive Interpreting: Memory and Practice (all languages)

Wed, Sep 23 & Sat, Oct 3
State Court Oral Test Prep- Test B (Spanish/English)

Sat, Oct 17
Overview of Crimes and Criminal Law (all languages)

Sat, Nov 14
Immigration Law for Interpreters (Spanish/English)

Sat, Dec 12
Court vs Conference Interpreting (Spanish/English)

Need an Interpreter?

Legal, medical, court, and educational interpreting — in person or remotely by phone or video.

For emergency interpreting services, call us at (816) 761-5334

1. Reach Out — Call, email, or scan the QR code with your appointment details.
2. Share the Details — Language, date, time, and setting (legal, medical, business).
3. We Confirm — A professionally qualified and/or certified interpreter is matched and confirmed with you.

SCAN ME

Sara Gardner	Gracie Englehart	Isabela Gardner
Owner & Interpreter	Director of Operations	Director of Finance

How'd You Do?

Answers:
1.) C
2.) A
3.) C

A note from the editor...

Twenty-six years. When I started Interpreters, Inc., I never imagined I'd still be at it more than two and a half decades later. A business changes so much over that kind of time. It starts with you answering every call yourself and becomes something bigger: a team, a family of colleagues who show up for each other. And to keep it growing, I've had to keep growing too, as an owner, an instructor, and an interpreter. The three don't really separate for me.

The part I treasure most is witnessing my interpreters' journeys. I might teach a student for a full year at Maple Woods, hire them as a contractor when they finish, and then get a front-row seat as they study for the written and oral exams. No two journeys look the same. Some go hard and fail test after test — and every time, they get back up and try again. Others are the lucky ones who pass on the first or second try. And some don't get there, but they stick with me anyway, and I watch them continue to grow into fantastic colleagues right before my eyes.

That's the real reward after 26 years — not the milestones, but the people. In August of this year, I got to congratulate two of my contract interpreters, Hanner Cepero and Cath Kumar, who became MO State Court certified. Both were former students in my Maple Woods Community College interpreting course. Kudos for obtaining their certification!

Here's to the ones still climbing, the ones who just made it, and the ones who've been with me all along and continue to learn with me! 

From the Desk of Sara Gardner

What would you like to see in the next issue of Interpreters Ink? Let Us Know!

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