



Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services Division
**Communication Access Services Program
Interpreter / CART Registry**



Mentor List

(updated June 2023)

Name: Kalen Beck

Credentials: RID CI and CT, EIPA Written Test

Contact Information: skbeck@adsd.nv.gov or phone: 775-315-5075

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both – on-site if located in the Reno-Carson area

Areas of the state served: All areas

Biography: Kalen Beck brings more than 30 years of language access expertise to the field as an interpreter, instructor, and mentor as well as being a national consultant and speaker on topics of language access, disability access, and cultural readiness. With a degree in Interpreter Education, she has been passionate about educating and mentoring interpreters across the nation. She has spent much of her interpreting career in the healthcare, government, and theatre industries. Kalen currently serves as Member-at-large on the Nevada Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf board. She works for the State of Nevada as a Sign Language Interpreter Mentor and is excited to share her enthusiasm for interpreting with other interpreters throughout the State.

Name: Jeff Jaech, MA

Credentials: RID CI and CT

Contact Information: jjjaech@adsd.nv.gov

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both – on-site if located in southern Nevada

Areas of the state served: All areas

Biography: Jeff Jaech, MA, CI & CT, is an interpreter and mentor with the State of Nevada Communication Access Services. He has been interpreting professionally since 1986 in a wide variety of settings, with considerable experience in interpreting in postsecondary settings. He has also been an interpreter educator since 1997, teaching numerous workshops and in ITPs throughout the country. He earned his CI and CT and a master's degree in Psychology in Education from Columbia University Teachers College in 2013. From 1997-2000, he worked for the Gallaudet University Regional Center at Johnson County Community College as the coordinator of the Regional Interpreter Training Project, a federal grant supporting interpreter education in Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas. Since then, he has coordinated accommodations for Deaf/hard of hearing students, faculty, and staff at Columbia University Teachers College and the University of Oregon. Jeff is passionate about mentoring and helping interpreters realize their full potential.



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Name: Kim Johnson, MA

Credentials: RID NIC, Certificate in Healthcare Interpreting from NTID, EIPA 4.0+

Contact Information: kjohnson@adsd.nv.gov

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both – on-site if located in the Reno-Carson area

Areas of the state served: All areas

Biography: I have been interpreting in community settings for 12 years. I began my career in southern California after I completed my interpreter training at California State University, Northridge. Most of my professional interpreting experience is in postsecondary education and government services. I also have a graduate degree in communication studies and taught interpreting at CSUN for a short time. I have worked for the State of Nevada as an interpreter mentor for 5 years and have been utilizing the formal Communication Access Services (CAS) mentorship program which emphasizes self-analysis. Please contact me to learn more about the State of Nevada's CAS mentorship program including how you can apply!

Name: Megan Johnson

Credentials: RID NIC, EIPA 5.0

Contact Information: meganjohnson@adsd.nv.gov

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both – on-site if located in southern Nevada

Areas of the state served: All areas

Biography: I have interpreted in a wide variety of settings over the last 15+ years. My background is in education, and I spent a large chunk of my career in post-secondary education as both a service provider and a coordinator. My specialties include educational interpreting, the EIPA, and mentoring through kindness.

Name: Obioma U. Officer, MA

Credentials: RID ED: K-12, EIPA Certified 4.0 and Cruise Interpreting Academy (CIA) trained

Contact Information: Oofficer.aslinterpreter@gmail.com

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both – on-site if located in the Southern area

Areas of the state served: Southern and Rural; Northern (virtual ONLY)

Biography: Obioma Officer was born and raised in the East Bay Area of California. Growing up in a mainstream setting with hearing loss, diagnosed at the age of 8 with Auditory Processing Disorder, Obioma didn't begin signing until she was a freshman in High School. Graduating in 1999 from James Logan High School in Fremont, CA, Obioma went on to Ohlone College in Fremont, CA to pursue a degree in Deaf Studies. With the hopes of becoming a Sign Language Interpreter, Obioma continually remained involved in the Deaf community, seeking support for her own hearing loss journey while being a support and ally for the Deaf community at large.



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Currently the Vice President and Co-Founder of Nevada's Black Deaf Advocates chapter, Obioma strives to see greater attention and acknowledgement of the current needs for diversity and Black/African American (B/AA) representation in our state as leaders and Interpreters. Being a promoter of Deaf advocacy and awareness, and Interpreting for over two decades, Obioma seeks equitable treatment and access for all within the Deaf community while prioritizing communication access and allyship.

As an Transformational Leader at heart, Obioma finds it to be imparative to empower the next generation of BIPOC Interpreters and the interpreting community at large. Having additional challenges with Auditory Processing, Obioma has found ways to ally with her team, providers, and consumers to assure the best communication outcomes possible.

Obioma has a Bachelors degree in psychology and a Masters degree in Strategic leadership. She is currently enrolled in a Doctoral program, as continued education and growth are important to her. Though Obioma did not complete an ITP Program, Obioma actively utilizes her degrees, skills, and experience as a Consultant for Deaf Ministry/ Religious Interpreting and non-profit development while continuing to interpret throughout the communities of Southern Nevada, Northern California, Video Relay Services, and Video Remote Interpreting.

Name: Alayne Carter

Credentials: RID NIC, EIPA 4.5

Contact Information: laney.bee13@gmail.com 702-556-9034

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both – on-site if located in Southern Nevada

Areas of the state served: In person: Southern Nevada, Virtual: All

Biography: With both of my Grandparents being Deaf, I used to watch my Aunts and Uncles in awe as they communicated with them. Now that I have been interpreting for 13 years I laugh at how much of it they made up! I started interpreting in an Elementary School in Texas, after I certified I moved into the community arena and have done most of my work there with jobs ranging from preschools to the President. I have moved around a lot and due to my National Certification I was able to experience the community on both coasts of the United States. I have done VRS and VRI work and my passion is in performance interpreting as well as teaching ASL to the hearing community which I did via partnerships with a non-profit business as well as a Charter School.

I have been a mentor for about 5 years now both remote and in person. I love talking about the work and guiding interpreters with how to self evaluate, recognize patterns in themselves (both good and not so good), as well as learning to not sweat the small stuff. We are human and yes, we can always improve-but let's not forget the skills and accomplishments we have already achieved. We are better than what we give ourselves credit for!

My philosophy is that through sharing my experiences, however good, bad, or embarrassing they may be, will assist in growing, learning, and becoming better interpreters for our consumers.



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Name: Lyssa Goldsworthy

Credentials: EIPA 4+ Elementary and Secondary, EIPA WT

Contact Information: 775-442-1125

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both

Areas of the state served: Northern Nevada

Biography: I've been an interpreter for seven years, with five years in K-12 education. I have experience with language deprivation and almost every grade level.

Name: Michael Farner

Credentials: RID NIC

Contact Information: Farnems@nv.ccsd.net

Remote or On-site mentoring: Both

Areas of the state served: Southern Nevada and remote

Biography: I have been interpreting professionally since 2009. I have a Masters in Interpreting Pedagogy, a Bachelors in Deaf Studies and the NIC from RID. I have been mentoring interpreters since 2011. I use a deliberate practice approach and use recorded videos to identify patterns in parameter articulation errors and areas in which mentees can improve their work. I work primarily in k-12 now, however I have extensive postsecondary interpreting experience as well as experience in a variety of other settings such as community, health, legal, and video relay interpreting. I look forward to working with you.