

National Standards for Training Programs
An update from the NCIHC Standards, Training and Certification Committee
September 2009

The launch in July of the project to develop National Standards of Practice for Healthcare Interpreter Training Programs was a success and the SFTP rocket is hurtling upward! Here's what the STC ground crew has been up to since our last update.

1. Literature review

NCIHC's Standards, Training and Certification (STC) committee received tremendous response to the Request for Proposals to conduct the literature review for this project. We were quite impressed by the qualifications of the researchers and by the quality of their proposals. In August, after much deliberation, the Council signed a contract with the team of Stergios (Steve) Roussos from the Alliance for Community Research and Development and Priscilla Mendenhall of Samsara Communications. Between them, they embody a wealth of experience in both research and healthcare interpreter training, and we feel fortunate to have them on board.

Over the past month, the team has been joining the STC committee's biweekly meetings, collecting interpreter job descriptions and DACUM analyses, and contacting a wide range of interpreter training programs with requests to review their course outlines. Ten of these curricula (which will be viewed only by the research team) will be chosen for a full analysis. The team is on schedule for a November completion of the initial lit review.

2. Focus groups

A second focus group is planned for the MATI conference coming up in Indianapolis on September 12. In preparation, the focus group guide developed for NCIHC's Annual Membership Meeting focus group has been revised to fit the one-hour format.

3. Advisory Committee

The STC committee has been developing criteria for the formation of the Advisory Committee to this project. As you may remember, the Advisory Committee will be tasked with working with the STC to analyze all the initial information that is gathered and to draft the initial standards for your review and input.

4. Communication

Outreach to state and regional interpreter associations has been well received. These groups have been very generous in permitting us to submit updates to their newsletters and bulletins. In addition, a new page is being added to the NCIHC website at www.ncihc.org that will chronicle the work being done to advance this project.

Keep tuned for more breaking news, and don't forget to respond when you see requests for input and guidance. We don't want this process to get "lost in space," and we know that with your help, the Standards will be "out of this world."