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Fall 2026

CCHI News Digest

Welcome to the Fall 2026 CCHI News Digest! As the crisp autumn air sets in and we gather momentum toward the close of another dynamic year of advocacy and growth, we're pausing to celebrate our shared achievements and chart the road ahead. Inside this issue, you'll find key CCHI milestones, top headlines from across our network, and community highlights. Grab a warm drink and read on to see how we're elevating the profession together!

Warmly,

The CCHI Team

CCHI News



Even in challenging times, our hearts are full of gratitude

At the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI), our work in raising the bar for quality in healthcare interpreting is vital to patient safety and healthcare equity. In a year defined by changing technological landscapes and shifting attitudes toward the patient populations we serve, **we remain deeply grateful for our dedicated certified interpreters** and hopeful for what lies ahead. Looking forward, emerging opportunities on Capitol Hill present a critical window to advocate and ensure every patient is heard and understood. Driven by this momentum, CCHI remains steadfast in setting the standard for quality healthcare interpreting across the nation.

Click here to hear from some of our Commissionerson what they are thankful for this season.

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CCHI Welcomes New Commissioners

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our two newest CCHI Commissioners, **Raja M. Muhsen, CHI™-Arabic**, and **Dr. Jean-Jacques Kayembe, MD, MPhil, MPH, CoreCHI-P™ (French Proficiency)**!

Raja Muhsen brings over fifteen years of deep linguistic expertise, leadership, and advocacy to the Commission. A dedicated Arabic translator, trainer, and staff interpreter with UCHealth (CO), her broad experience spans business leadership, community volunteerism, and serving as a Board Director for the Colorado Interpreters and Translators Association (CITA). Joining her is **Jean-Jacques Kayembe**, Director of Interpreter Services at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle (WA). With more than two decades of experience spanning clinical medicine, public health administration, and language access leadership, Jean-Jacques is a champion for health equity and community advocacy, serving on the Washington State Interpreter and Language Access Commission and as Founder of the Congolese United Foundation.

Both Raja and Jean-Jacques embody CCHI's core mission of elevating professional standards, supporting our interpreter community, and ensuring equitable care for every patient. We are honored to have their visionary leadership on the Commission!

CCHI Community Happenings



This is your bonus opportunity to earn **1 Interactive Ethics CE credit before the end of the year!**

Join us on **November 21, 2026, from 11 AM to 12 PM Eastern Time**, for **"Ethical Pearls for Medical Interpreters: Part 1"** presented by Tica Interpreter Training & Translations Founder and CCHI Commissioner **Marisa Rudea Will**.

This 1-hour, ethics-focused session unpacks groundbreaking findings from *The Hidden Roles of Healthcare Interpreters (2026)*, revealing how interpreters, providers, and Spanish-speaking patients view vital tasks beyond language

conversion. You will explore real-world data on cultural mediation, advocacy, and emotional support while applying foundational ethical frameworks to evaluate the interpreter's impact on patient outcomes.

This webinar will be delivered in English and intended for interpreters of any language!

CCHI-certified interpreters will earn **1 Interactive Ethics CE hour for only $9.**

TO REGISTER, click here.

Virtual Book Club Meeting on November 18th



The autumn leaves aren't the only things moving fast! Our November Book Club Meeting is right around the corner. If you haven't cracked open your copy yet, don't worry. There's still plenty of time to pour yourself a spiced latte, sink into your favorite armchair, and get up to speed with our current feature: ***Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines*** by Joy Buolamwini.

Blending raw personal memoir with razor-sharp tech investigation, Dr. Buolamwini exposes how real-world inequality sneaks into facial recognition systems and automated tools. It's an urgent, eye-opening exploration of civil rights, human dignity, and the future of technology… and it makes for an incredible, high-energy group conversation.

 Book Club Meeting: November 18 at 7 PM ET

 Register: Zoom registration

Top Headlines

NAATI Launches "We All Deserve to Be Understood" Campaign

The Australian National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) released a new digital awareness toolkit for clinical practices to support healthcare providers in engaging certified interpreters and encourage non-English speaking patients to request professional language services. Read more

Pennsylvania Study Highlights Safety Risks of Language Barriers in Hospitals

A review of 336 patient safety events in Pennsylvania revealed that language barriers, driven primarily by the unavailability of certified interpreters, continue

to pose significant risks, leading to potential medication errors, care delays, and compromised patient safety. Read more

Vice President Vance Questions the Value of Healthcare Interpreters

Speaking at a Fox News town hall, Vice President JD Vance criticized hospital spending on language services for Limited English proficient patients, arguing that funds should be directed toward hiring more doctors. Read more

Justice Department Memo Outlines English as Official U.S. Language

Following executive action establishing English as the official language of the U.S. government, Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche issued a Department of Justice memorandum outlining operational adjustments and guidance regarding federal language access policies. Read more

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Interpreting Industry Conferences

We closed out the year with a whirlwind tour across the U.S. as our staff and commissioners presented, exhibited, and networked at key conferences nationwide! From leading impactful sessions on cognitive interpreting skills to connecting with interpreters, educators, and healthcare leaders in the exhibit areas, CCHI was proud to raise the bar for quality in healthcare interpreting from San Francisco to Rhode Island. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth, attended our presentations, or shared their insight with us. We are energized by the momentum of this community and look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead. Together, we are strengthening health equity and language access across the nation. Thank you to everyone who joined us along the way!



Congratulations to the 2026 Language Access Champion, Cindy Roat

Please join us in congratulating **Cindy Roat, recipient of the 2026 Language Access Champion Award!** □

At the Interpreting Reception during the 2026 Language Access Summit, NCIHC President Andy Schweiter said we have all been shaped by the groundwork Cindy laid through decades of dedicated work in the trenches of this profession. Her leadership and advocacy have helped build a stronger foundation for the field.

Congratulations, Cindy, and thank you for all you have given to our profession and the people we serve. □



UPCOMING!





SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENT!



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 20, 2027, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM ET** as we bring back the power! Join us for a CEU-packed agenda as we gather again for the ***Power of Practice III!***

Thank you for reading!

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