



National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators

1707 L Street, NW ♦ Suite 570 ♦ Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-293-0342 ♦ Fax: 202-293-0495 ♦ www.najit.org

September 24, 2009

California State University, Long Beach
B.H. 310
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840

RE: Proposed discontinuance of Translation/Interpreting Program, Spanish Department

Dear President/ Provost/ Vice-Provost:

NAJIT has recently learned of the proposed discontinuance of the Translation and Interpreting option to the BA degree in Spanish at CSULB and of courses in Translation and Interpreting (T&I). This follows the elimination of your Translation and Interpreting degree program that has been of enormous benefit to both its graduates and the community, consistent with the stated mission of the California State University at Long Beach.

NAJIT is the nation's first and largest organization of legal translators and interpreters, and is currently celebrating its thirtieth year of existence. As part of NAJIT's professional development program, we have had the pleasure of working closely with students from your program and have found them to be exceptionally well prepared in terms of both skills and knowledge of this complex field. It is notable that CSULB students represent a significant proportion of NAJIT Scholarship recipients, selected from a highly competitive field of national candidates.

Interpreters and translators play a crucial role in ensuring meaningful access to healthcare, social services, and justice. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order #13166 require that Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals have access to legal, medical, educational and social services from any entity or organization that receives Federal funding. Translators and interpreters make it possible for these entities and organizations to comply with the Federal mandate, and the need for their services ensures that the graduates of your T&I program will find gainful employment, as many of your graduates already have, and be productive members of the workforce.

Until now, CSULB has played a key role in preparing interpreters and translators to fill the critical needs described above. It strikes us as particularly counterproductive to eliminate a program whose graduates serve the LEP communities in the legal and health-care fields. This program has provided these students, many of whom represent linguistic minorities with access to a growing profession and an opportunity to address a critical



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social need. Translation and Interpreting is one of the very few sectors of the current economy in which jobs are available.

CSULB's pilot Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting has been widely acclaimed, not only by California organizations such as California Court Interpreters Association, California Healthcare Interpreters Association, and the Judicial Council of California, but also by a variety of professional organizations at the national level, including NAJIT. The success of this program is due in no small part to the foresight and efforts of Dr. Alexander Rainof, a well-known and highly esteemed leader in our profession, both nationally and internationally.

Interpreters and translators have become an integral part of our modern, multicultural world, and the demand for their services will only continue to grow. Therefore, we strongly urge you to reconsider, and retain your critically needed and highly regarded program in Translation and Interpreting.

Sincerely,

Rosemary W. Dann, Esq. (MA, Spanish)

Chair

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