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New Market Study Identifies Interpretation -- a Monterey Institute Specialty -- as a High-Growth, High-Pay Profession
Findings to be presented at Summit on Interpreting June 17 in Washington, D.C.

Monterey, CA – Interpreters play a vital role in both the public and the private sector, enabling thousands of courts, hospitals, schools and businesses – not to mention international organizations and heads of state -- to bridge language barriers daily. A recent market study conducted by the independent research and analysis firm Common Sense Advisory found that interpreters earn between $43.14 and $65.96 per hour on average, and that although many interpreters work only part-time, more than a quarter of the 1,135 surveyed earned more than $50,000 per year. This makes interpreting “an attractive profession,” according to the study’s lead author, Nataly Kelly. “Our research has shown that the interpreting market is growing at a fast pace, fueled by legislation and increased awareness of the need for interpreting services.”

The study, which was commissioned for the upcoming 1st North American Summit on Interpreting, also found that interpreters are a highly educated group. Nearly half of survey participants had a master’s or doctoral degree, although only 28.9 percent of respondents reported having a degree in interpreting and 7.6 percent said they had no formal training in interpreting. The Monterey Institute of International Studies – a founding co-sponsor of the June 17 Summit on Interpreting-- offers graduate degree programs in interpretation and related fields such as translation and localization management that are regarded as among the best in the world.

“Training and education for interpreters are critical regardless of where or how they work, and the core skills of interpreting are quite similar across all sectors,” said Barry Slaughter Olsen, professor of Translation and Interpretation at the Monterey Institute and co-founder of InterpretAmerica, host of the June 17 summit. “This is one of the primary reasons we decided to gather leaders from all areas of interpreting at a single event, to discuss these common interests.”

The report, which was commissioned by InterpretAmerica, also found that the interpreting profession is quickly aging, with close to half of the participants in the survey having worked in the field for 15 years or more. “Interpreting is a vastly under-marketed, underpublicized profession, especially with younger generations,” explained Katharine Allen, co-founder of InterpretAmerica.
The full findings of the study will be presented at the 1st North American Summit on Interpreting on June 17 in Washington, D.C. For more information on the summit, visit www.interpretamerica.net.

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The Monterey Institute of International Studies is at the forefront of international professional education, preparing students for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors. A private graduate institution located in Monterey, California and affiliated with Middlebury College, the Institute offers fully accredited degree programs in international business, translation and interpretation, international policy studies and language teaching, and is home to the world-renowned James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. The Institute’s approximately 800 students come from more than 60 countries. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu.

InterpretAmerica, LLC was established to provide a national forum for the interpreting profession. Through conferences, discussion groups, its website, and other activities, it brings together the community, conference, legal, medical, military, and signed language interpreting sectors, as well as buyers and vendors of interpreting services. InterpretAmerica seeks to elevate the profile and reach of the interpreting industry to the benefit of all. For more information, visit www.interpretamerica.net or www.twitter.com/interpamerica.