

## ***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

SPONSOR: Javier González

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Global Languages and Cultures

ACTIVITY TITLE: Visit from professional interpreter and educator Marcelo López to SPAN 452

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: February 21, 2019

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at [david.daniels@csuci.edu](mailto:david.daniels@csuci.edu) within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

### **(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY**

Mr. López completed his studies in medicine in Argentina and has been a professional medical interpreter in the Los Angeles metropolitan area for well over a decade. He is also an educator and entrepreneur and owner of [interpreterprep.com](http://interpreterprep.com). Interpreterprep.com is a site and educational program to help students prepare and pass the different healthcare certification exams for a national certification. I used the program myself for the required educational hours to get my interpreting certification.

Mr. López spoke about a number of different topics from the perspective of an actively working interpreter. These topics included the interpreter's role, linguistic and culture challenges, specific challenges with some patients, such as those who give lengthy, roundabout answers; ethical matters and how to approach them, advice on how to start a career in interpreting and suggestions for improving as an interpreter once certified.

The last thirty minutes of class, he answered a wide range of student questions related to topics he presented and others covered previously in class. This included specific questions about how to interpret certain problematic phrases, details about steps prospective interpreters need to take to get started and thrive as interpreters, further elaboration of anecdotes and questions about specific challenges he has faced working as an interpreter.

### **HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?**

Mr. López's talk covered situations in the following of the course's learning objectives: a) Expand vocabulary in order to interpret accurately and completely between English and Spanish in various healthcare settings using modes of interpretation typically found in medical encounters, building upon material from Introduction to Healthcare Interpreting. b) Integrate appropriate medical terminology in both languages and enhance communication between a provider and patient during routine and complex medical encounters. c) Use culturally appropriate behavior and recognize and address instances that require intercultural inquiry to ensure accurate and complete understanding.

### **(2) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?**

Giving students the opportunity to speak with professionals actively engaged in the field, hearing of their

experiences firsthand, getting practical advice as to how to get started in the career, understanding some of the issues in a concrete sense and having the opportunity to have questions answered directly by this professional all complement the work done in the class. It

is important for students to be able to interact with these professionals so that they can assess their own goals and address what they need to do to enter the profession.

### **(3) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?**

Given the structure of the event, the interpreter's presentation and Q & A in class, there were no weaknesses, other than some students wishing to ask questions in private instead of the open class structure. Mr. López, being an educator as well, prepared a well timed, dynamic and engaging presentation. I had asked him to focus on certain topics and he did concisely.

**(4) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?** The activity accomplished its purpose. Because this was Mr. López's second visit to the class, I was able to better integrate it into the course syllabus and learning goals. His presentation was also part of the exam given in class. Given how organized Mr. López was and his sharing of his powerpoint with the class further helped this integration. Not all speakers come as prepared as Mr. López and he has been a valuable resource for students the last two years.

**(5) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?** It is a far simpler task to invite a speaker to a class than organizing a large event. Mr. López also gave me several ideas as to other points to focus on in the class.

### **(6) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)**

A portion of the first exam dealt directly with Mr. López's presentation on the ethics (CHIA standards) and difficult ethical situations faced by interpreter's in the field.

Students responded very positively to Mr. López's presentation, giving mostly 4s and 5s to all the categories. The written comments were almost universally very positive with only a couple of constructive comments for future improvement. Student satisfaction was high. See attached Xcel sheet for specific survey information.

### **(7) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.**

Mr. López was paid \$400 for his presentation. The Global Languages and Cultures Program invited him to lunch on campus that day.

### **B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)**

See attached roster.

**C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES IN THIS DOCUMENT TO DEMONSTRATE  
STUDENT PARTICIPATION**



Mr. Marcelo López in front of the class in Bell Tower1684 explaining the importance of HIPAA and interpreter ethics to the SPAN 452 class.

SPAN 452 Roster (all attended Mr. López's presentation).

1. Minay Baltazar
2. Karen Diaz DeLeon
3. Debora Favela
4. Sandy Franco
5. Araceli Garcia
6. Roberto Garcia
7. Elise Hirsty
8. Jocelyn Ledezma
9. Maryann Leyva
10. Martha Lopez
11. David Maldonado
12. Sindy Martin
13. Jeanette Monzon
14. Reyna Moreno
15. David Padilla Sanchez
16. Yosduan Ramos
17. Kayla Rivera
18. Darise Rodriguez
19. Jesus Sandoval Castro
20. Nancy Suarez
21. Itzely Valadez
22. Miriam Velez Sanchez