

Nominee: Indira Sultanić, Ph.D., Certified Healthcare Interpreter™-Spanish

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Bio:

Dr. Indira Sultanić is an Assistant Professor in the School of World Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. She holds a Ph.D. in Translation Studies from Kent State University, and an M.A. in Translation, Spanish, from the same institution. Dr. Sultanić is a scholar and educator of translation and interpreting with more than a decade of professional experience in the language industry as an interpreter, translator, trainer, and consultant, and a passionate advocate for health and social equity through meaningful language access. She is the vice president elect of the California Healthcare Interpreting Association (CHIA), and a member of the CHIA conference committee. Dr. Sultanić has authored articles and book chapters on medical interpreter education and training, challenges of interpreting for vulnerable populations and unaccompanied refugee children in the U.S., co-authored research on language-based inequities in health care and is currently working on research related to remote interpreting in pediatric therapy settings.

Statement:

My name is Indira Sultanić, and I am an Assistant Professor of Spanish Translation and Interpreting Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. Over the past 5 years, in addition to my scholarly work, and serving diverse groups of students at both California State University, Fresno, and at Virginia Commonwealth University, I have had the honor and the privilege of serving on the board of California Healthcare Interpreting Association (CHIA) and being a member of the conference committee for four consecutive years. My time as a member of the board at CHIA has taught me invaluable lessons about collaboration, and that an organization run by volunteers requires initiative, passion for the field, and commitment. It has showed me that each member of the board serves a unique role in the mission of the organization, in supporting its members, and in promoting professional development and growth through training and education. I have had the opportunity to organize and help run CHIA's yearly educational conference, both in-person and remote. I have served as a reviewer for conference proposals, participated in the selection process, and moderated conference sessions. Additionally, I have been responsible for overseeing the assignments and scheduling of conference volunteers.

Although my experience to date has been with an organization with a strong focus on healthcare interpreter training and education, my scholarship, teaching, community engagement, and professional goals, closely align with ATISA's mission. I would bring a unique perspective which is that of an academic, an educator, and a language professional. My background and expertise, along with relevant experience as a member of the CHIA board, position me to serve in different capacities. As a board member, I will commit to furthering ATISA's mission of promoting research in translation and interpreting studies across disciplines and working alongside dedicated colleagues in achieving ATISA's goals and serving the T&I research and professional community.