



NAETISL

National Association of  
Educational Translators and  
Interpreters of Spoken Languages

# 2026

## Virtual Conference

### BUILT BY MANY VOICES, POWERED BY ONE VISION



**Dr. Layla Sarquis**

- **International Psychologist** -

**"The First-Person Paradox:**

*Vicarious Trauma in Interpretation Work"*

## Speaker Profile

**Dr. Layla Sarquis**

Dr. Layla Sarquis is an International Psychologist with more than 20 years of experience helping individuals and organizations thrive in culturally diverse environments. Originally from Costa Rica, she has combined private practice, academic teaching, research, and organizational consulting within bilingual settings to empower individuals and teams to live healthier, more balanced lives. Her work focuses on providing people with the tools, strategies, and insights needed to foster sustainable wellbeing in an increasingly globalized society.



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**Dr. Mathew Maddox**

- Linguist, Language Access Advocate -

**"Two Roles, Two Skillsets:**

*On the Benefits of Organizational Separation  
of Interpreters and Liaisons"*

## Speaker Profile

**Dr. Mathew Maddox**

As an accomplished linguist, language access advocate, and interpreter/translator, Dr. Mathew Maddox brings two decades of experience in education and academic research to the role. He earned his Ph.D. in Spanish/Romance Linguistics from the University of Illinois.

His academic background includes teaching courses such as Introduction to Spanish Linguistics, Spanish Phonetics & Phonology, and History of the Spanish Language. Currently, Dr. Maddox works for Lincoln Public Schools in Nebraska and is actively pursuing professional certifications in medical and educational interpretation. Driven by a firm belief in linguistic diversity, he is dedicated to advancing language access. He champions well-trained interpretation services for students and their families, underscoring this commitment as both an ethical imperative and a legal requirement.



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**Dr. Ana Soler**

- Ph.D. Special Education -

**"AI in Translation and Interpretation:**

*Issues Related to Ethics, Bias, and  
Confidentiality"*

## Speaker Profile

**Dr. Ana Soler**

Dr. Ana Soler has been a curriculum developer, interpreter, translator, and trainer for over 25 years. She has authored curricula nationally including the Intercultural Parent and Youth Leadership Program, the Interpretation Academy for Bilingual High School Students, the Arkansas Interpreter Credential in Education course, a 40-hour certification preparation course for medical interpreters, and various online courses for the University of Georgia, including the Professional Interpreter in Education Certificate, the Professional Interpreter in Special Education Certificate, and the Professional Translator in Education Certificate, which she has been teaching for over 10 years. She completed her degree in Social Work at Georgia State University, her Master's Degree in Public Health at Emory University, and her Ph.D. in Special Education at the University of Georgia. Her Ph.D. research focuses on the intersection of ableism and linguicism, and the impact of untrained interpreters on family engagement in the implementation of inclusive education. She remains an active medical and educational interpreter and translator.

 **FRIDAY  
AUG 28**  
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**Mariana Landaverde Martínez**

- ATA-Certified Translator -

**"Prepared to Perform:**

*How Preparation Shapes Accuracy in  
Simultaneous Interpreting"*

## Speaker Profile

**Mariana Landaverde Martínez**

Mariana Landaverde is a sworn translator, an ATA-certified translator,, and a Certified Medical Interpreter with over 27 years of experience in the field. Based in Guatemala City, she maintains an active independent practice at both national and international levels. Her career includes eight years as a contractor for the U.S. Department of State, translating news into English, and fifteen years with the Office of Technical Assistance as an independent translator and interpreter. She holds a degree in International Trade, a B.A. in Translation and Interpreting, a Certificate in Court Interpretation from the University of Arizona, and a Certificate in Medical Interpreting from the City College of New York. In addition to her professional practice, Mariana has spent the past 18 years teaching interpretation in English, Spanish, and Mayan languages across various institutions. She is deeply committed to advancing professional standards and education in the field. She serves as President of the Guatemaltecan Association of Interpreters and Translators for the 2025–2027 term, where she leads strategic initiatives to elevate the profession through outreach, training, and international collaboration.

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**Cèlia Llaberia Vilalta**

- **Learning Disabilities Teacher & Consultant** -

**"From Fatigue to Framework:**

*An Interpreter Sustainability Initiative"*

## Speaker Profile

**Cèlia Llaberia Vilalta**

Cèlia Llaberia Vilalta is a learning disabilities teacher and consultant and has been an educator in the public-school setting for over 20 years.

Originally from Spain, she spent her formative years in a bilingual household. Her undergraduate studies focused on linguistics, concentrating on teaching English as a foreign language. She has taught adult and K-12 Spanish and English. Cèlia has an MA in Diversity and Inclusion and a certificate of advanced graduate studies in learning disabilities from Rowan University, NJ. She also holds certificates in DEI, Inclusive Pedagogy, and Inclusive Campus from Rowan University. She is a member of the New Jersey Association of Learning Consultants, and the Council for Exceptional Children's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners, and Learning Disabilities divisions. She currently serves as Co-Chair of NAETISL.



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**Megan Mutti**

- Executive Director

of Family Matters Parent Training Center -

**"Special Education Language  
and Terminology:**

*Building Interpreter Confidence in IEP  
and School-Based Settings"*

## Speaker Profile

**Megan Mutti**

Mega Mutti is the Executive Director of Family Matters Parent Training Center. She was most recently a member of the Ligas Family Advocate Team at the Arc of Illinois. Megan is a 2023 graduate of the Illinois Partners in Policymaking Program and a 2020 graduate of the LEND Program at UIC, where she participated as a Family Fellow. She is an Ambassador for the Charting the LifeCourse Nexus.

Megan attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she completed both her BS and MA in Human Development and Family Studies. She spent many years as a member of the Pediatric Supportive Care Team at Children's Hospital of Illinois, where she focused on patient and family-centered care. Megan is the mom to two daughters, one of whom is a young adult with autism and an intellectual disability.

Megan's areas of interest include family-school partnerships, parent engagement in the school and health systems, and effective advocacy strategies.



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**Mauricio Dangond**

- NAETISL Distinguished Instructor  
& Experienced Language  
Educational Interpreter -

*"Anticipation: The Interpreter's Edge"*

## Speaker Profile

**Mauricio Dangond**

Mauricio Dangond is a dedicated and experienced language interpreter specializing in education, with a profound commitment to fostering understanding and communication within diverse communities. Born in Colombia and currently based in California, Mauricio has worked the last 11 years interpreting in the educational sector in the Newport-Mesa School District. In addition to his contributions at the district level,

Mauricio is also an instructor for NAETISL. Here, he leverages his expertise and experience to develop and deliver comprehensive courses aimed at enhancing the skills of interpreters and staff members working in educational settings. Mauricio's commitment to professional development in language interpretation extends beyond the school setting, as he continually seeks to innovate and improve the resources available to language professionals.

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