



## KC Instructors & Student Participate in Conference

### Medical Interpreter Conference

by Kevin-kun, Kanji Club Student

On June 16th I had the chance to attend the Medical Interpreters Conference with Blake Sensei and Toshiko Sensei held at the Ritz in Carmel. The conference began with a small continental breakfast during which our group met with other interpreters.

Many attendees were American Sign Language (ASL) or Spanish interpreters. However, there were few Asian language interpreters. We appeared to be the only group of people representing Japanese, which gave me a greater sense of the need for Japanese speaking Medical Interpreters.



Toshiko-sensei, SenGupta-sensei and Kevin-kun

Following the continental breakfast was an introduction by the CEO of Clarion Hospital for the event's keynote speaker, Ira SenGupta. Mrs. SenGupta was in Indianapolis on behalf of the Cross Cultural Health Care Program (CCHCP). The CCHCP teaches a class known as Bridging The Gap (BTG), a course which is theoretically and ethically based, medical interpreting class. The BTG program does not focus on specific languages, but aims to share with participants the 'art and science' of medical interpreting.

The convention continued with speeches and presentations covering a range of topics including ASL interpreting, refugee programs in Indiana, Indiana's ethnic diversity, and how to become a certified Medical Interpreter. Although the focus of our trip to the convention was mainly to gather information about Medical Interpreting, all of the presentations were interesting and fun.

There was also a lunch, during which I was able to speak to a few medical interpreters. Before the day was over we had met with most of the speakers and even had a chance to grab a picture with Mrs. SenGupta. Attending the conference opened my eyes to a new and exciting potential career opportunity and was a great chance to network with professionals inside the field. The highlight of my day at the conference was the ability to talk directly with the keynote speaker about the BTG program. ©

I recommend to other Kanji Camp students who are interested in pursuing a career using their Japanese to attend events like the Medical Interpreters Conference. By pushing yourself to attend outside events you can meet important people who may be able to guide you in the future. As for myself, I was able to get huge amounts of information on a new career path I had not even thought of beforehand.

*Sensei says: For those interested in getting the Bridge the Gap certification, please find more details about the local opportunity within the next KC newsletter.*

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