INTERPRETER TRAINING

Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to increase faster than the average for all occupations over the 2016-2021 period, reflecting strong growth in the industries employing interpreters and translators. Higher demand for interpreters and translators in recent years has resulted directly from the broadening of international ties and the increase in the number of foreign language speakers in the United States. Rapid employment growth among interpreters and translators in health services industries will be fueled by the implementation of relatively recent guidelines regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which require all health care providers receiving Federal aid to provide language services to non-English speakers. Similarly, the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws, such as the Rehabilitation Act, mandate that, in certain situations, an interpreter must be available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Demand for American Sign Language Interpreters will grow rapidly, driven by the increasing use of video relay services, which allow individuals to conduct video calls using a sign language interpreter over an Internet connection. Given the shortage of interpreters and translators meeting the desired skill level of employers, interpreters for the deaf will continue to have favorable employment prospects.

Employment Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** In 2016, interpreters and translators held an estimated 2,163 jobs in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with 2,381 jobs projected by 2021 (10%).

**State:** Interpreters and translators held an estimated 2,770 jobs in Kansas in 2016, with 3,126 jobs projected by 2021 (+13%). All together 356 openings are anticipated due to the need for replacements and growth.

**National:** Interpreters and translators held 322,112 jobs in 2016, with 354,637 jobs projected by 20,121 (+10%). Approximately 32,525 openings are expected due to growth and the need for replacement workers.

Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Interpreters and translators employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $21.89 in 2016.

**State:** Interpreters and translators in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $20.91 in 2016.

**National:** Interpreters and translators working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $20.43 in 2016.

September 2017
JCCC Placement and Salary Information

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. Sixty-four percent of the graduates who responded to the follow-up study conducted during 2015-16, and were employed, were employed in a related field and reported earning an average hourly wage of $18.25.

Note: Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics