

ECHOES

EPITA

El Paso Interpreters & Translators Association



President's Message

By Rafael Carrillo

Dear friends and colleagues,

Now that spring is coming to an end, and as we get ready to take our traditional summer break, the Board and our committees will be shifting into high gear to begin preparing for our Fall Continuing Education Workshop. The workshop will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center on the campus of the beautiful University of Texas at El Paso. We will offer two separate tracks, one for experienced interpreters and one specially prepared for folks who are just starting, or looking into a career in the interpreting, translating or forensic transcription field. Remember to save the date, and stay tuned for the detailed program and regular updates on our webpage and on Facebook. Let's start spreading the word so we can have another successful training event.

I want to wish our colleagues taking the written and oral components for the Federal Certification exam the best of luck. I also want to congratulate those colleagues who recently passed the Texas licensing exam and welcome them to the ranks.

In closing, I want to invite everybody to join us for our last monthly meeting before the summer break on June 20th at 6:00 PM at the Community Room at the El Paso Police Department West Side Regional Command Center at 4801 Osborne Dr. Bring any ideas or concerns you want the Board to address so we can have some homework during the break. We will have important updates to share.

Have a safe summer!

Rafael Carrillo
President

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Contributions

• **Editorial:**

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WHAT IS ECHOES?

ECHOES is published monthly by the El Paso Interpreters and Translators Association (**EPITA**)... read more on page 4.



What Is The Actual Median Annual Pay for US Translators and Interpreters?

By TREY CALVIN

Published May 29, 2019.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently updated reporting on the median pay for translators and interpreters to \$49,930, or \$24/hr. But inaccuracies in prevailing wages rate determinations and missing survey data may be depressing the stat...and contractors' compensation.

When the government needs things done by a third party, i.e. a service contractor, it must abide by the price guidelines or “price rate” established by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The BLS averages data on workers’ wages and labels it the “prevailing wage rate” of that particular service industry.

This “official rate” has huge implications. It acts as both a benchmark to which many government departments must adhere when buying services, and sends a larger message to the market on what the perceived worth and year-over-year growth of an industry is.

In reality, translators average between \$42.30 – \$55.44/hr and interpreters average between \$55.87 – \$124.68/hr.

Unfortunately for language service providers, the current BLS prevailing wage rate for translators and interpreters is inaccurate due to limitations in the survey methodology.

While the vast majority of the language workforce is composed of independent contractors, or 1099s, BLS only collects data on regular W-2 employees, significantly skewing the statistic to as low as \$23/hr. BLS added a “self-employed” category several years ago, but as yet to offer any data for median annual pay on its Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) report.

In reality, according to the American Translators Association’s (ATA) 2017 Compensation Survey translators average between \$42.30 – \$55.44/hr, while interpreters average between \$55.87 – \$124.68/hr. [The ATA survey](#) accounted for both W-2 employees and 1099 workers.

This gap comes at a significant lost to the language services providers with respect to contracting with the federal government for translation and interpreting services in instances when the OES data serves, in some cases statutorily, as the benchmark for compensation in bidding estimates.

EPITA PINWALL



Mark Your Calendar

NEXT MEETING

Hope to see you at our next meeting Thursday, June 20, 2019 at the Community Room of the El Paso Police Department West Side Regional Command Center at 6:00 PM.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 LINDSAY TREJO

5 PATRICIA HERNANDEZ

10 MARGARITA ARMIJO

JULY BIRTHDAYS

10 JULIANA
MAIO-CARDENAS

10 LEONOR SANTOS

13 JORGE PEREZ-VIÑALET

17 ALEX ARAIZA

29 MARGARITA LOZANO

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8 MARA VILLANUEVA

20 MARTIN YEE

29 GIANNA L. SALAS



EPITA INFO

2019-2020 EPITA OFFICERS

President:

Rafael Carrillo

Vice President:

Josefina Font

Recording Secretary:

Valeria Delmar

Corresponding Secretary:

Fabiola Tortajada

Treasurer:

Mara Villanueva

2019-2020 EPITA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy:

Patricia Hernandez

Annual CE Courses:

Margarita Armijo

Rosa Alva Garcia

Bylaws:

Ralph Garcia

Membership:

Keila Reyes

Public Relations:

Margarita Lozano

ABOUT ECHOES

ECHOES is published monthly by the El Paso Interpreters and Translators Association (**EPITA**). For information regarding membership contact the Membership Chair. For newsletter contributions, contact the Editor, Rosa Alva Garcia. Deadline for submission of articles and news is the last Saturday of the month.

EPITA is an association that promotes ongoing education and development of translators and interpreters.

EPITA, through its meetings and workshops, supports accreditation and certification programs, and engages in outreach.

Individual annual membership: \$30.00

Mission:

WHAT IS EPITA?

The goals and objectives of this professional association are: The advancement, protection and benefit of its members. To elevate the status of its members and to advance their interest. EPITA, since its inception, has found that interest in interpreting and translating has increased along with the need for continuing education. We offer monthly mini-workshops on current topics of interest and an annual conference. Participants come from a wide area surrounding El Paso, TX.

EPITA:

El Paso Interpreters and Translators Association

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