



Vanessa C. Marciano-Kelly

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Trilingual (English, Spanish, French), bicultural college graduate with a multifaceted work and leadership experience.

Consistently recognized for substantial skills in community leadership, public speaking, Spanish translation and interpretation, legal research, creative problem-solving and intercultural communication.

Nimble team-player, self-starter who can also take direction, goal-oriented and capable of producing effective results under high stress situations. Exceptional people-skills, especially with immigrant communities.

EXPERIENCE

Owner | Lead interpreter & translator

Caracas Language Solutions, LLC – Des Moines, IA

Present

Certified court interpreter in the state of Iowa. Provide Spanish-English interpretation and translation services in community settings such as medical, legal and human services, in both consecutive and simultaneous mode. Sight translation. Research, analysis and writing on interpretation and translation matters. Provide peer review and editing to fellow translators. Open to working remotely.

Social work support staff

State of Iowa, Department of Human Services – Des Moines, IA

Oct. 2014 to Oct. 2015

Provide administrative support to social workers in an array of tasks, including but not limited to data entry, case management support, archiving and maintaining open case notes, translation/interpretation.

Answer an average of 65 calls/day to provide information and paperwork related to Income Maintenance benefits such as Food Assistance, Family Investment Program and Medicaid. Reply to IM client inquiries using WISE, Electronic Case File and ELIAS system. Log calls and phone messages for Spanish unit Income Maintenance workers.

Serve as first contact between the Department of Human Services and clients, helping clients navigate through the department's services and branches. Assist with daily clerical work.

Community Organizer

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement – Des Moines, IA

January 2012-Sept. 2014

Led an essential 1-year, statewide community action campaign on comprehensive immigration reform, reaching over 600 immigrants and allies through popular education meetings, rallies, days of action, traditional and social media engagement.

Organized over 20 small groups of workers to recover more than \$25,000 in unpaid wages. Helped establish monthly labor clinics at CCI. Drafted language and led negotiations with Hubbell Realty, for the company to adopt anti-wage theft policies in their business contracts. Organized a group of agricultural workers in filing a civil rights suit and an OSHA investigation and fines at the workplace.

Worked with immigrant workers to recover unpaid wages and identify issues affecting the community.

Organized meetings and actions for achieving community goals. Provided orientation, research and referrals on civil rights, immigration, legislative issues. Maintained project's Facebook page. Grant writing. Planned media strategies, case-management on wage theft and workplace issues.

Direct Support Professional

Children's Care Hospital & School – Sioux Falls, SD

September 2011 – December 2011

Provided educational, emotional and healthcare support to children with disabilities; assisted special needs children in learning how to live more independently through communication programming, implementing behavior intervention plans, empowerment and establishing enduring personal relationships. Collected data for nursing reports, as well as for behavior therapy.

Peer Mentor

South Dakota State University

November 2010 – May 2011

Individually mentored 7 college students from different backgrounds returning to SDSU from academic probation, 6 of which were back to good academic standing by the end of the year. Imparted relevant leadership, time-management and academic skills students needed to achieve success in college, while at the same time providing emotional support and confidentiality.

Spanish Tutor

South Dakota State University

October 2010-May 2011

Tutored over 50 college students in freshman and sophomore Spanish courses, focusing on effective language study strategies, goal-setting, vocabulary development, grammar and pronunciation. Worked with advanced Spanish majors in editing papers, reviewing cultural research, improving pronunciation and solving questions about Latin American culture and vocabulary.

News Editor

The Collegian – Brookings, SD

2009 to 2010

Received Honorable Mention for 2010 Story of the Year from the Associated Collegiate Press for a diversity story on race relations in South Dakota, "High Hopes for 'year of unity'". Successfully led a team of college reporters in obtaining interviews and developing stories. Was actively involved in the newspaper production process, editing and fact-checking pages before printing.

Reporter

The Collegian – Brookings, SD

2009

Conducted interviews with various campus personnel and students, as well as researched current events, to produce weekly news and feature stories about happenings at South Dakota State University and the Brookings community.

Junior writer

Estetica y Salud Magazine – Caracas, Venezuela

2007 to 2008

Produced no less than 10 monthly informative articles, reports and feature stories in the area of health and nutrition. Conducted research and established contact with contributing physicians. Assisted in organizing ad schedule. Assisted senior journalists with interviews, story ideas and creative headlines. Translated legal documents from Spanish to English. Assisted in basic editing and proofreading.

Press assistant

Ministry of Trade and Industry - Caracas, Venezuela

2006 to 2007

Produced daily institutional news content and reports. Compiled relevant press dossier and analysis for vice-ministers. Assisted senior journalists and PR staff in covering and organizing press conferences or PR events. Translated legal documents and provided oral interpretation from English to Spanish. Conducted research in domestic and international trade issues.

Translator/reporter

VHeadline.com – Venezuela

2004 to 2007

Translated news, op/ed articles and audiovisual material from Spanish to English. Produced news and editorials in English for the Web site. Established contact with independent media and community leaders. Served as interpreter and cultural liaison to foreign independent journalists

EDUCATION / CERTIFICATIONS

Iowa Supreme Court - Des Moines, IA

Statewide court interpreter certification, May 2015

Des Moines Area Community College – Des Moines, IA

Certificate of Specialization in Judiciary Interpretation and Translation. GPA: 3.84/4.0

South Dakota State University – Brookings, SD

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*

Majors: Global Studies, French Studies. GPA: 3.73/4.0

College Reading and Learning Association

Spanish tutor certification

Oakland Community College – Auburn Hills, MI

Associate degree in Liberal Arts

Universidad Santa Maria – Caracas, Venezuela

Relevant coursework: newswriting, editing, Spanish language syntax, photography, media law & ethics.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Spanish – native language

English – expert

French – intermediate

AWARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- 2015 New Leaders Council Fellow – New Leaders Council, Des Moines Chapter, May 2015
- *2014 Iowa Latino Leadership Award* for work advocating on behalf of Latinos on workers' rights and immigration reform issues, League of United Latin American Citizens (Iowa) – November 2014
- Member, Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association – IITA, 2014
- Alumni, Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines – May 2014
- Board member, Iowa Latino Center – May 2014
- *Schultz-Werth Award* for excellence in originality, creativity and scholarship in undergraduate research dissertation: Still Free, Still Alive: Images of Haitian Collective Values Portrayed Through Child Characters in Lamartine's *Toussaint Louverture* and Agnant's *Alexis d'Haiti* – April 2011