In these times of uncertainty amidst COVID-19, the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) and the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education (CCIE) send our heartfelt best wishes to those affected. Many public institutions around the country are altering their method of instruction for the remainder of the semester. Some interpreter educators may be anxious about potentially shifting from face-to-face instruction to online instruction. With this possibility looming over us, many interpreter educators are moving into uncharted territories. We, CIT and CCIE, understand the challenges this may possess. We understand the value of in person instruction for our specialty field, so encourage you to be creative with designing coursework that meets the needs of our students while keeping everyone safe. For some of us, using videos for instruction and video analysis platforms to evaluate and grade work is already commonplace. For others, this will be entirely new. This approach to instruction can be innovative and exciting. Keep in mind that for most of the Interpreter Education Programs, this will affect us for no more than half a semester.

It is important that you reach out to your college or university to find out what online learning tools they provide. Take training on how to use those tools. Think outside the box on what could be done and most importantly, be flexible. There are many resources out there that can be utilized for teaching online, and several publishers are offering materials for little to no expense during this difficult time. Please talk to your institution about how they can support you.

It may also be possible that you have students out in the field doing Practicums and Internships this semester. Please use your best judgment in keeping the students safe. The CCIE will be flexible with accreditation requirements for this semester given the severity of the circumstances.

We wish you the best as we all move through these new waters. Continue to follow the CDC’s precautions and remain healthy.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bentley-Sassaman Marlee Dyce
President, CIT President, CCIE