



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INTERPRETERS IN EDUCATION

2023 Leilani Johnson Leadership Award Kat Miller

Nominator: Jodi Upton

Kat works her behind off to always continue to improve herself. She works as a full-time educational interpreter as well as serves as the GA state ambassador for NAIE and a co-coordinator for CEUs. She also serves as a co-coordinator for Southeast Interpreters Network, a group that provides free workshops to educational interpreters in the north Georgia area. Kat finished her master's degree in interpreting studies earlier this year, and also received an extra certificate in educational interpreting. Kat is super supportive of all interpreters, educational or not. She would give her shirt off her back with no hesitation if someone needed it.

Nominator: Linda Hershey

Kat is one of the most dedicated educational interpreters that I have ever met. She not only advocates for her student to make sure the student has the necessary educational resources but she makes sure that her student is also socially part of the class body. She goes out of her way to make sure that the parents have an understanding of the student's needs. I have watched Kat continue with her education in order to provide the best services she can. I recently witnessed Kat provide interpreting in a non-educational setting so that a member of a civic group was included. Kat's giving heart is by far her superpower!

Nominator: Kendra Heater

Kat was an interpreter for a deaf student in my 1st grade classroom during the last school year. She happily answered any questions that I had throughout the year, and worked tirelessly to make sure that our student had the best access to the learning. Kat would frequently teach myself and our class signs so that students could begin to independently communicate with our student. During this time Kat was also furthering her education in order to be as knowledgeable as possible and to best meet student needs. Kat is beyond deserving of this recognition.



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Nominator: Xoe Oliver

Kat Miller is making great contributions to the values of educational interpreting. She is always willing to go above and beyond, not only for her students, but for the community as well. Volunteer work fills the small amount of spare time she has after everything else she does. She is selfless, motivated, empathetic, and embodies what it means to be a leader in the educational interpreting community. I hope her efforts will not go unnoticed.

Nominator: Connie Lowe

It is an honor to nominate Kat Miller for the Leilani Johnson Leadership in Educational Interpreting Award for her exemplary service and leadership. Her BA and MA are related to Educational interpreting, and two certificates for interpreting studies and teaching ASL were her dedication earned her membership in various societies for academic excellence. She has licensure to work as an educational interpreter in Tennessee and Georgia. She was also the first ASL interpreter in Tennessee to earn the core CHI Medical Certification. I first met Kat while she was searching for someone to help teach her children sign language during their homeschooling experience around eighteen years ago. Then we were colleagues in a high school setting where she mentored four of us interpreters to prepare for the written EIPA assessment. She has always been on fire to work with and learn from other interpreters so she could better serve the Deaf community. Kat always strives to start new projects to become a better professional while encouraging others to support one another regardless of their skill development level. If there is one quote from her that we could all apply, it would be, "Everyone has something to bring to the table, and we can all learn something new from each other if we choose to listen." This refreshing attitude has helped her dive into roles such as a State Ambassador for NAIE, CEU coordinator for NAIE, coordinator for SEIN, several academic committees, and a behind the scene community volunteer for Wreaths Across America, volunteering in prison to help inmates give back to the community through acts of service, and multiple other works that most people are unaware of.

These are just a few examples of what makes Kat Miller an awe-inspiring nominee while silently growing positive roots in the interpreting community.



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Nominator: Rose Smith

Kat Miller exemplifies a humble servant's heart and a determination to give her all to a profession she chose after taking a sign language class as her language prerequisite in college. She has earned a B.S. in Interpreting Studies from Troy University (4.0 GPA) and an M.A. in Interpreting Studies from (WOU) Western Oregon University (4.0 GPA) along with two additional certificates related to the interpreting profession, specifically for working with Deaf children. She has CoreCHI Medical Certification through the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (the 1st ASL interpreter in the state of TN with this certification!) and she also has licensure in TN and GA for educational interpreting.

She has taken every opportunity for additional learning by completing continuing education classes. She has also participated in presenting mini workshops and is continuing to work on developing new potential Lunch and Learn workshops for NAIE.

Kat continually gives her all to the students she works with. One example is she encourages the Deaf students to teach sign language to the hearing students and motivates everyone to be involved alleviating isolation. She has even bought learning aids to give the Deaf students an equal opportunity to learn. She is willing to tutor during and after school hours to make sure Deaf students are hitting their academic goals.

Kat Miller is an ideal candidate for the Leilani Johnson Leadership in Educational Interpreting Award. She is making every effort to serve the next generation of the Deaf community. Academically she also serves as a coordinator for SEIN, CEU coordinator for NAIE, State Ambassador (GA) for NAIE, WOU: Dean's Graduate Student Advisory committee member, and WOU's Graduate Tuition and Fee Advisory Committee member. Lastly, she serves as a committee chair for eight community programs through GFWC Valamont Women's Club.



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Nominator: Holly Mooney

Kat Miller is an exceptional interpreter to receive the honor of the Leilani Johnson Leadership in Educational Interpreting Award. Kat is a leader and advocate for interpreters and the Deaf community. The first time I met Kat, I instantly felt undeniable support, love, leadership, and kindness. I have team interpreted with her and she exuded with teamwork, equality, and kindness. Kat always welcomes interpreters with warm and non judgemental kindness. She has dedicated her career and life to serve the Deaf community. Kat's exemplary dedication for her own education is impeccable. She strives to spread awareness and acceptance. I am very fortunate to have met and work with Kat.