

February 20, 2011

Professor Enrica J. Ardemagni
Director, Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies
Department of World Languages and Cultures
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
425 University Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Professor Ardemagni:

I have read with great interest your proposal for a Master of Arts Degree in Translation and Interpreting at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. I would first like to congratulate you and your colleagues for a very well developed proposal that is highly readable and well researched. I am pleased to endorse this innovative program and provide you with my rationale for doing so.

I am responding to your proposal from a dual perspective as the Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) and as a Professor of Spanish, Emerita at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-D). From my point of view as the Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, I think that the IUPUI Program in Translation and Interpreting would be unique in the region and one of a very few such programs in the entire country. In 2006 the Modern Language Association (MLA) released its report entitled "Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World." That report calls for a major shift in the way we teach languages in the US and the purposes for which we learn them. This proposed new Program in Translation and Interpreting does precisely what the MLA Report calls for: it addresses the issue of a paradigm shift from the traditional language-literature focus to a broader translingual and transcultural program that emphasizes twenty-first century skills.

It is from my position as a professor emerita that I know first-hand the need for such a program. Several years ago at UM-Dearborn we attempted to add a Certificate in Translation to our business Spanish program at both the undergraduate and/or graduate levels in response to the automotive industry and its needs for interpreters and translators. If we had had a model to follow, such as the proposed program at IUPUI, our attempt to add the certificate program would have been much easier.

From both perspectives I am particularly impressed with the way this proposed new program builds on a successful undergraduate program at IUPUI and focuses on solid language proficiency. The program is not focused on narrow skill-building courses in translation alone.

The program is interdisciplinary in nature and links to economics, sociology, linguistics, culture, and communication via international media. The program also links to the surrounding community and provides students with learning experiences in area businesses and non-profit organizations. Students who graduate from the program will have a varied and well-rounded background and the ability to work as a professional in the field.

I am also impressed that the program centers on four core courses and offers several options such as Spanish Medical Interpreting, Spanish Legal Interpreting and German-American Heritage Documentation. I am also pleased that the program takes into account the use of computer-assisted translation and offers options in website adaptation and localization. These are highlights of the program.

Once this M.A. Program in Translation and Interpretation has been implemented, I think that the potential for building a reputation for IUPUI is great. As mentioned above, the program will be unique in the region and one of a small number of such programs in the United States. Because of the uniqueness of the program, the potential to receive federal and other grants will be very high. I have no doubt that the program will soon become known as the “IUPUI Program” and everyone will know that the phrase refers to the new direction in language learning. The program will also serve as a model for other universities and M.A. programs.

In summary, I certainly hope that this innovative program can be quickly implemented. I look forward to having sessions at the AATSP annual conference on the “IUPUI Program in Translation and Interpretation” so that other graduate programs around the United States can see what can be done to meet the demands of our changing society. I also look forward to having conference sessions on the implications that such an M.A. program can have on undergraduate programs. And lastly, I look forward to having such a program in place so that the graduates can feed into existing Ph.D. programs in translation so that Spanish departments across the country can hire the faculty necessary to make programmatic changes to the undergraduate major and broaden its focus. I wish you well in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Emily Spinelli
Executive Director, AATSP
Professor of Spanish, Emerita, University of Michigan-Dearborn



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

School of Medicine

February 23, 2011

Enrica J. Ardemagni, PhD
Professor of Spanish
Director, Certificate in Translation Studies Program
Indiana University School of Liberal Arts
IUPUI Department of World Languages and Cultures
425 University Boulevard, CA-501E
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5148

RE: Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting Graduate Degree Program Proposal

Dear Dr. Ardemagni:

I am writing to express my support to the IUPUI Department of World Languages and Culture Studies proposal to create a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting. I wholeheartedly support this graduate degree program opportunity.

Through my work in medical education and clinical services in the Indiana University School of Medicine I see clear need for qualified medical interpreters as a critically important part of the multidisciplinary care team for providing quality patient care for diverse populations.

This is certainly a cost effective intervention for reducing health disparities based on language barriers in the clinical encounter and the state of Indiana will certainly benefit from such an academic program designed to fill this need.

If I can be of further assistance to you in securing this program, please do not hesitate to contact me directly @ 278-8710 or at jsevilla@iupui.edu.

Sincerely,

Javier F. Sevilla-Mártir MD
Assistant Dean for Diversity,
Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine,
Director Hispanic/Latino Health and
International Medicine and Global Health

JFSM/beh

Smith, Candice L

From: Ardemagni, Enrica J.
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 6:05 PM
To: Smith, Candice L
Subject: FW: new MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

Candy, Can you please include these with the letters of support for the MA in T/I? Thanks, Enrica

-----Original Message-----

From: Mickel, Emanuel J.
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 11:03 AM
To: Bersier, Gabrielle S.
Subject: Re: new MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

Dear Professor Bersier,
I do not see any conflict with programs that we offer.
Sincerely,
Emanuel Mickel
Chairman, French and Italian
Quoting "Bersier, Gabrielle S."
<gbersier@iupui.edu>:

> Dear Emanuel Mickel,
>
> I hope that you are well after the interminable winter season. I am
> sending you a pdf copy of a Master of Arts in Translation and
> Interpreting that we would like to add to our departmental curriculum.
> The proposed sequence of courses represents an upgrade from the
> Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies that we have offered
> at IUPUI for the past decade. Its design and purpose are aligned with
> the professional mission of the IUPUI campus.
> In moving forward with proposing a new MA degree, our department needs
> a statement from your academic unit certifying that the proposed new
> program does not overlap with your own departmental offerings. In
> addition, we would welcome a general statement on your part regarding
> the educational benefits of the new program.
> Your response can be directed to me in e-mail form.
> Thank you in advance for your response, and with best wishes for the
> spring season!
> Cordially
>
> Gabrielle Bersier
> Professor of German
> Chair Department of World Languages and Cultures Indiana
> University-Purdue University Indianapolis
> 425 University Boulevard
> Indianapolis, IN 46202
> 317-274-8246
> gbersier@iupui.edu
>

Smith, Candice L

From: Ardemagni, Enrica J.
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 2:31 PM
To: Smith, Candice L
Subject: FW: new MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

This letter needs to go with the endorsement letters for the MA in TI Thanks. eja

From: Larson, Catherine
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:06 PM
To: Bersier, Gabrielle S.
Subject: RE: new MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

Dear Gabrielle,

We don't see overlap with our departmental offerings, but we thank you for asking.

I have shown the proposal to our elected Chair's Advisory Committee, and several faculty colleagues have noted that this looks like a well-designed program, which will offer something unique—and needed—in our state: an MA in Translation and Interpreting. As the number of Hispanics rises in Indiana, such a program promises to provide an important set of skills, just as it will also help Indiana compete in the global economy. Congratulations on putting together such a good proposal.

With best wishes,
Catherine Larson
Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Indiana University Bloomington
Bloomington, IN 47405

TO: Enrica Ardemagni, World Languages and Culture Studies, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

FROM: Peter W. Krawutschke, PhD, Professor of German and Faculty Senate President, Western Michigan University

DATE: 7 February 2011

RE: Letter of Endorsement, MA in Translation and Interpreting, IUPUI

I am pleased IUPUI is proposing this MA in translation and Interpreting, and I am delighted to be able to endorse it as it is presently presented. IUPUI, because of the very practical content of this MA will assume an exemplary leadership position in these two disciplines not only in the Midwest but also in the US.

It may be useful in considering the value of my endorsement to record my pertinent professional background: Immediate Past President, International Federation of Translators (FIT); Past President, American Translators Association (ATA); Founding President, American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, Inc. (AFTI); and Founding Director, Translation Center, Western Michigan University.

In evaluating an academic program in terms of discipline- specific faculty available to its students, I always look first at the credentials the faculty bring to their teaching. I was pleased to see the Universities of Mainz and Binghamton represented, both leading institutions in their respective countries in translator and interpreter education. Combined with the practical experience and professional certification presented, this program and its students will be served by an excellent and experienced faculty .

As far as the desirability or societal need for this MA program is concerned, the proposal makes a very good and accurate case, particularly as far as it concerns service to the areas of law and health care. I predict that the pool of applicants for this MA, given effective national PR, will draw student from across the nation. It is no accident that the EU recently established the European MA in Translation and that the Chinese Government enticed its elite universities to offer MA programs in translation apart from the foreign language departments. These developments clearly indicate the need for such education in the US as well, and I have no doubt that the US Department of Education and the Department of Defense will follow suit by offering financial support to programs with a track record as templates for programs to be established. As far as the program content of this MA is concerned, I recommend attention be given to how this industry operates in the US and internationally. Perhaps the internship

component should receive an additional three hours of credit. After the program has gained a few years of experience, the creation of a translation center could be considered. This center could offer the region and the state assistance with T&I related issues by offering referrals and advice as well as campus internship opportunities. At the same time it could serve as a research base for statistical information about demands for specific languages and services.

In summary, the proposed MA in Translation and Interpreting is well conceived and offers the state of Indiana, the Midwest, and the nation a model for an academic program in “practical” translation and interpreting which could well serve as a template for the planned accreditation of academic programs in translator and interpreter education in the US.

Smith, Candice L

From: Ardemagni, Enrica J.
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 9:08 AM
To: Smith, Candice L
Subject: MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

Candy, Here is another endorsement letter for the MA in T/I for you to upload.
Thanks, Enrica

From: Bersier, Gabrielle S.
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 4:00 PM
To: Ardemagni, Enrica J.; Van Wyke, Ben
Subject: FW: new MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

Another important endorsement from IU-B!
Gabrielle

Gabrielle Bersier
Professor of German
Chair Department of World Languages and Cultures
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
425 University Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-274-8246
gbersier@iupui.edu

From: Johnston, Bill
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 3:53 PM
To: Bersier, Gabrielle S.
Subject: RE: new MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

Dear Gabrielle,

I'm so sorry not to have responded sooner. I've looked over the proposed program, and there seems to be no significant overlap with the Certificate in Literary Translation offered by the Department of Comparative Literature at IU Bloomington.

Over the last few years I've fielded a number of inquiries from individuals looking for a program in translating and interpreting. It seems that your proposed program will be just what many of these prospective students will need. I support your endeavor, and I believe it addresses a deeply felt need not just in the State of Indiana but across the country. I wish you luck with the new program.

With best wishes,

Bill Johnston

Bill Johnston

Associate Professor and Chair, Comparative Literature
Ballantine Hall 914, Indiana University, Bloomington IN 47405
Tel: 812-855-7070; fax: 812-855-2688end_of_the_skype_highlighting

Associate Professor, Second Language Studies
Memorial Hall 303, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
tel: 812-855-4968; fax: 812-855-5605

e-mail: billj@indiana.edu

From: Bersier, Gabrielle S. [mailto:gbersier@iupui.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 4:12 PM
To: Johnston, Bill
Subject: new MA in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI

Dear Bill Johnston,

I hope that you are well after the interminable winter season. I am sending you a pdf copy of a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting that we would like to add to our departmental curriculum. The proposed sequence of courses represents an upgrade from the Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies that we have offered at IUPUI for the past decade. Its design and purpose are aligned with the professional mission of the IUPUI campus.

In moving forward with proposing a new MA degree, our department needs a statement from your academic unit certifying that the proposed new program does not overlap with your own departmental offerings, particularly the Certificate in Literary Translation. In addition, we would welcome a general statement on your part regarding the educational benefits of the new program.

Your response can be directed to me in e-mail form.

Thank you in advance for your response, and with best wishes for the spring season!

Cordially

Gabrielle Bersier
Professor of German
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Fax: (413) 577-3400
Email: transcen@hfa.umass.edu

February 10, 2011

Enrica Ardemagni
Professor of Spanish
Director, Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies
Department of World Languages and Cultures
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Re: Master of Arts Proposal in Translation and Interpreting

Dear Professor Ardemagni:

I am honored to write a recommendation for the proposed Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting as proposed by the Department of World Languages and Cultures at the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. All scholars in the existing translation and interpreting programs at IUPUI are of the highest quality, and I have no reason to doubt that the proposed Masters of Arts would not be any less distinguished. It seems a logical extension of existing course offerings and fills a great need in higher education; there are no similar programs in the Midwest United States, especially ones offering specializations in legal and medical, where the need for highly qualified translators and interpreters is growing faster than universities can train professionals.

In many ways, the translation and interpreting proposal at IUPUI is pioneering. In this new globalized world, the need for translators and translation teachers is increasing. The demand in the business, industry, and government circles is growing; the need for specialization is on the rise. IUPUI has built a solid program in undergraduate studies in the field and has kept abreast of the latest technologies, incorporating computer technologies into their educational program. There is simply no other program like it in the United States. Expanding the program to include a M.A. would further the field, place IUPUI graduates in well-paid entry level jobs in academia, business, hospitals, and the courts, bring further prestige to the university, and enhance its relations with businesses and social service agencies in the region. In addition, the United States government, including institutions such as the Department of Defense and State Department, have a critical need for language professionals and translators, and may be willing to develop collaborative projects.

Translation studies is a relatively new field, having coalesced as an academic discipline in the 1960s with the establishment of the National Translation Center, M.A. programs at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Iowa, and new journals such as *Delos* and *Modern Poetry in Translation*. While the field has grown rapidly in many areas of the world, including Spain (over 30 M.A. programs), England, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Canada, Brazil, and China, its growth has been slow in the United States, with only a dozen M.A. programs, and most of those in literary translation, and only two Ph.D. programs, which were just established last year at Binghamton University and Kent State. IUPUI has developed its educational program with foresight and intelligence, and I feel that it is more than ready to establish a Master of Arts Program.

Pedagogical research that is ongoing in the field, especially internationally, demonstrates that translation and interpreting involves complex linguistic, scientific, sociological, technological, and computer skills. Researchers are finding that translation, rather than being a minor component in cultural production, is one of the major components that can induce change, introduce new ideas, create market and government connections, and serve to unite regional populations. Research is well underway in many areas, including terminology database development, socio-linguistic investigations, ethnographic and anthropological studies, psycho-linguistic research, and complex theories of meaning and cross-cultural communication. Some of this research is being conducted by faculty affiliated with the new M.A. program. At IUPUI, the Master of Arts will not only train future translators and interpreters for the profession, but also induce some to go into further research.

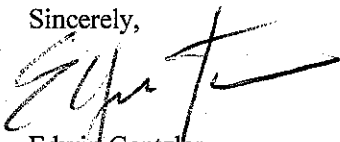
The field of translation studies also has a great need for skilled and professional teachers of translation. Jobs are opening in the United States and around the world in the field, and qualified teachers are few. Generally translators have good linguistic skills, but lack the research and teaching skills, or have the research and teaching skills, but lack the knowledge of practical translation. The proposed program as structured at IUPUI should fill this gap. I am particularly impressed at how the program combines theory, research methods, and practice, particularly incorporating the latest developments in computer-aided translation. I am also struck by the liaison work already done establishing internship opportunities. No university has such a comprehensively designed curriculum, nor one with such a high degree of specialization and practical application.

The proposal also strikes me as economically feasible. The existing core faculty, many of whom have experience in teaching translation and interpreting, strike me as having unusual expertise in the area. They should be able to assume the brunt of the educational and advising work. The current undergraduate curriculum can also be adapted to a graduate program. Many of the language courses, such as Spanish, are already on the books, or can easily be upgraded. Indeed, the translation and interpreting courses should complement and enhance the current language training offered. The proposed program also links to existing courses in other disciplines, including English, History, and Linguistics. Student growth in the languages included in the program is increasing, so enrollments should be high. Our experience with the MA in Translation Studies here at UMass is that the quality and quantity of applicants is growing and improving nicely. We could take more in the program if we had sufficient faculty to deliver the core curriculum and supervise the theses. The proposal is unclear about the need of additional faculty to teach some of the new proposed courses, but it appears as if much of the teaching and advising can be assumed by existing faculty, keeping costs low.

In sum, I give the IUPUI proposal for a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting the highest marks for its foresight, academic rigor, relevance of training, balanced curriculum, and cost feasibility. Its future as an important academic discipline is bright.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Edwin Gentzler
Professor, Comparative Literature
Director, Translation Center



UNC CHARLOTTE

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
9201 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

Department of Languages and Culture Studies
Phone 704/687-8754
FAX 704/687-3496

February 15, 2011

Dr. Enrica Ardemagni
Professor of Spanish
Director, Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies
Department of World Languages & Cultures
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Dr. Ardemagni:

It is with great pleasure that I write an enthusiastic endorsement for your proposed Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting (T&I). I have carefully reviewed the proposal prepared by the Department of World Languages and Cultures at IUPUI, and find it to be exemplary in terms of clarity, rationale, and feasibility. This innovative new M.A. degree has tremendous potential for success because it is:

- very well conceived in terms of the proposed content, methodology (theory-based praxis), and structure of the curricula
- timely: forward-looking while at the same time responding to currently documented demand for academically trained translators and interpreters and leaders in the T&I field, locally as well as nationally and internationally
- sufficiently well staffed in terms of the faculty expertise required to successfully begin such a program
- being built upon the solid foundation of a preexisting undergraduate program in T&I with a 20-year track record of success in civic engagement via internships and experiential service learning
- cost efficient in terms of an integrative design that meets the content and skills development needs of different graduate learners: four tracks with overlapping core courses in Translation Studies
- clearly the beneficiary of vision and national leadership and visibility in the field on the part of the authors of the proposal who know what is needed and where things are headed in this rapidly emerging field of inquiry and pedagogy in American higher education

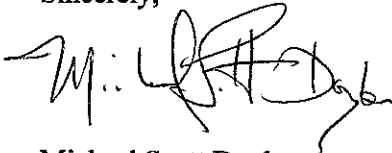
I want to commend the Department of World Languages & Cultures and IUPUI for their leadership in proposing a program that responds so well to educational needs identified by the Modern Language Association (MLA), the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), and the American Translators Association (ATA), among others, and to the employability prospects of its graduates as documented now for many years by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The proposed program has great potential to attract a strong pool of applicants regionally, nationally, and internationally (this has been our experience with the graduate English-Spanish translation track at UNC Charlotte, which has attracted virtually all of our out-of-state enrollment to our M.A. in Spanish; the program, a decade old, has now graduated nearly 30 M.A. students in this track alone, nearly 60 overall).

The proposed concentrations within the four-track curriculum respond well to the heavy demand in the key areas of Spanish-English Medical and Legal Interpreting and to German-American Heritage Documentation, all of which constitute very promising niches in higher education in the State of Indiana and the region. Combining graduate study opportunities in both translation (written communication) and interpreting (oral communication) should prove to be a powerful magnet for students interested in rewarding careers in today's and tomorrow's language industries. Also, "[b]y bridging the gap between textual translation and oral interpretation, cultural and literary and professional focus, the proposed graduate program in Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI prepares future graduates (...) for Ph.D. studies in translation." This will certainly be the case, as more Ph.D. programs will also be needed in the future in order to adequately staff the growing number of undergraduate and graduate programs in T&I in the United States. We currently lag woefully behind Canada and Europe in this regard. Another strength of the proposal is that "[g]raduate students in the new Master of Translation and Interpreting at IUPUI will be involved not only in applying technological tools, but in exploring technological advances in the field as research assistants in a new Center on Language and Technology." I also wish to highlight that the "survey of needs disseminated to the 100 most important constituencies and stakeholders in the state of Indiana, particularly in the greater metropolitan area of Indianapolis," provide compelling evidence of the need for this program and the strong likelihood of its success. Finally, the proposed creation of a Program Advisory Board, "to facilitate linkage between a) the educational needs of the M.A. degree, and b) the community needs for users of translation and interpreting services," could prove to be very beneficial for program recruitment, funding, and enhanced credibility.

There are two areas in which I will venture a few constructive suggestions. One, the curriculum may consider including additional key course work in areas such as "Evaluation and Quality Assurance in Translation and Interpreting" and "Translation and Interpreting as a Business." Many times translators and interpreters are called upon to evaluate the work of others, so they must know about standards and rubrics for assessment, and what the evaluation of quality entails. This is an important part of the industry and profession. In terms of "business," many translators and interpreters form their own sole proprietorships, partnerships, or other company forms, so it is useful for them to know about how to do this. Perhaps this would be an opportunity for some collaboration with IUPUI's business faculty or a small business development unit on campus of in Indianapolis. Second, I note the credit-hour differentials in the four proposed M.A. tracks, with the basic M.A. in Translation Studies being 30 credit hours while the other three options are 36 hours. Perhaps the M.A. in Translation Studies could consider offering a 36-hour option that would include an M.A. thesis, which would also serve to help prepare students for future studies at the Ph.D. level.

In sum, I appreciate being invited to review your proposal for a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting. It is an exciting, timely, well conceived program. I am convinced that it has great potential for success as a distinguished and well enrolled graduate program at IUPUI. Best of luck!

Sincerely,



Michael Scott Doyle
 Professor of Spanish, Translation Studies, Business Language Studies, and Latin American Studies
 Adjunct Professor of International Business
 Director of Certificates in Translating and Translation Studies (Graduate and Undergraduate)
 Director of Certificate in Business Spanish
<http://languages.uncc.edu/spanish-full/83-michael-doyle.html>

Smith, Candice L

From: Ardemagni, Enrica J.
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:28 AM
To: Smith, Candice L
Subject: FW: Requesting support of MA in Translation

From: Dankoski, Mary E
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 10:00 PM
To: Ardemagni, Enrica J.; Sevilla-Martir, Javier F
Subject: RE: Requesting support of MA in Translation

Dear Dr. Ardemagni,

I am writing to comment on the IUPUI Department of World Languages and Culture Studies proposal to create a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting. I enthusiastically support this proposal. In my work in medical education and clinical services in the Indiana University School of Medicine, it is abundantly clear that qualified medical interpreters are a critically important part of the multidisciplinary care team for providing quality patient care with diverse patients, and also for reducing health disparities based on language barriers in the clinical encounter. The state of Indiana needs a cadre of highly trained interpreters in a variety of specialized arenas such as medicine, and I support a graduate degree program designed to educate students to fill this need.

Please contact me if I can provide further comment.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Dankoski, PhD
Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development
Interim Co-Chair, Department of Family Medicine
Lester D. Bibler Scholar and Associate Professor of Family Medicine
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Office: 317-278-0367
Fax: 317-274-4444



8 February 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal for a Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting put forward by the Department of World Languages and Cultures of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. The proposal to upgrade and diversify the current Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies by creating a two-year Master of Arts Degree in Translation and Interpreting is both timely and well thought out.

Most significantly, the proposal addresses the national need for translators and interpreters in the rapidly-expanding language industry. Despite the fact that the rigorous academic training of translators and interpreters is the first and most important stage in guaranteeing high quality translation and interpreting products, there are very few programs of this kind in the U.S. Evidence of the need for qualified graduates of such programs is suggested by the over 90% job placement rate of the MA graduates of the Kent State Masters in Translation program. The need for legal and medical interpreters, in particular, is growing, and official certification requirements for interpreters are anticipated in several states. This program would help to fill a real need, which promises only to intensify in the coming years. Moreover, by raising academic standards in the field of applied language study, this proposal meets a number of the recommendations put forward by the Modern Language Association to make language study more relevant to today's student body and to advance proficiency levels toward professional competence. The proposal also wisely addresses local needs, in particular, those of the most important stakeholders in the state of Indiana and the city of Indianapolis.

The Department of World Languages and Cultures of the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts is uniquely situated to meet the goals of this proposal, building on the success of the department's undergraduate Certificate in Translation. Moreover, experienced faculty members are already in place to make this proposal a reality. I am particularly impressed by the proposed curricula, which demonstrate a wise mix of theoretical and practical courses. Courses such as F560 Computer-Assisted Translation and F580 Website Adaptation and Localization will ensure that graduates of the program are adequately trained for jobs in the contemporary language industry.

Overall, this proposal promises to connect the dots between language training and the job market, highlighting the relevance of language proficiency while meeting the needs of the local and national community. I support this proposal without reservation and with great enthusiasm.

Sincerely yours,

Brian James Baer, Ph.D.
Professor of Russian and Translation Studies
Coordinator of Graduate Studies

February 14, 2011.

Dear Professor Ardemagni,

I am writing not only to formally endorse your department's proposal to develop an M.A. in Translation, but, also, to congratulate you and your colleagues on such a timely and thoughtful initiative.

The new degree program, with its four areas of concentration, seems to offer an ideal continuation to your successful Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies track, and will undoubtedly represent a major addition to the current options in academic offerings in translator training available not only in Indiana and the Midwest, but in the country as a whole.

The rationale presented in the proposal convincingly argues for the need of such a program, particularly at a time when the demand for competent, well-trained translators and interpreters is becoming increasingly clearer. This is indeed an exciting time for those of us who for so long have been fighting for the opening up of more academic spaces devoted to translation scholarship and instruction. In that sense, it is a pleasure for me to learn of your plans, and, also, to somehow assist you in turning them into a reality.

Your proposal to train translators and interpreters at the M.A. level offers a well-balanced repertoire of disciplines that cover theoretical and practical aspects, as well as technology. I am particularly pleased to see that you have included courses directly associated with the discipline of Translation Studies, such as "Translation and Globalization" and "Introduction to Translation Studies," which should prepare future translators and interpreters to reflect on their role and responsibilities, thus contributing to strengthen the inextricable connection that binds the discipline and the profession, as well as theory to practice. As they learn to critically examine the translator's task and the ways in which the profession has been organized and practiced, students of translation should be better equipped to exercise their agency in an appropriate and ethical manner and, hopefully, also to improve the status of the profession and of those who practice it.

Regarding the necessary resources, if your Department does manage to hire a faculty member who could be responsible for the teaching of computer-assisted translation tools, it seems that the proposal could indeed be implemented almost immediately.

In closing, I would like to once again congratulate your Department for the initiative and to reassure you of my enthusiastic support. I hope the proposal is formally approved and wish you success with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Arrojo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Rosemary Arrojo
Professor of Comparative Literature
Binghamton University
Binghamton, New York 13905
607-7245093
rarrojo@binghamton.edu