

TICA TERP TIPS

CHIA Conference 2022 Takeaway

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Conference Tip:

Take the time to visit vendor's booths and ask questions about what they do and who they are.

How to Evaluate a Company's Culture

There are more than 3,000 language services providers throughout the United States alone. When deciding where to work, it is important to read between the lines to determine if a company is the right fit for you. Continue reading for ideas about what to look for and which questions to ask.

Question Company Priorities

Many companies look good on paper, but how can you know if the work environment is conducive to providing you with the tools and support you need to do your job? One way is to talk to a company representative and ask them questions. Here are some suggestions of what to ask:

Q: What is your company's mission? How is your company living out that mission? If I were an interpreter for your company, how would you help support me to provide the best service to your clients?

You can learn a lot about a company depending on how they answer these questions. Listen closely to the answers to understand if the company understands what it takes to help an interpreter succeed.

Language Access

A great way to distinguish a company who gets it from one who is in it for the profits, is the company's verbiage regarding language access. If a company is not centered around providing language access for LEP individuals, be wary. Companies who are in the language game for the profits may not be as likely support their staff adequately or pay them a fair wage.

Reach Out to Current Employees

If you find an organization you think will be a good fit for you, reach out to some of the employees to find out more information. Search for the company on LinkedIn or similar sites and find a few individuals who work there. Ask them about their experience and if they would recommend their workplace to you.

If you are having difficulty finding a relevant source, start expanding your professional network. Join interpreting and translating groups on social media sites and connect with colleagues.

“Company culture can make or break an employee's quality of life. Work for a company that supports you.” -Me

A Strong Management Team is Worth its Weight in Gold

If you are fortunate to work for a company that values and appreciates you, be grateful and spread the word. There are companies which take advantage of interpreters and we should work collectively to change this.

