

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New scholarship to support bilingual Texans seeking interpreter careers

AUSTIN, Texas— TEXAS Extended Campus (TEC) at The University of Texas at Austin has received funding for a new scholarship to support professional education students. The Plan A Scholarship Program, supported by the non-profit Plan A Foundation, will cover the enrollment fee for one individual to attend either the [Legal Interpreter Certificate Program](#) or the [Healthcare Interpreter Certificate Program](#), during the summer of 2019.

Offered as accelerated, five-day boot camps conducted on campus in July, both programs are open to anyone who holds at least a high school diploma (or equivalent) and who is fully bilingual (oral and written proficiency required) in both English and another language. On-site information sessions are scheduled on [May 15](#) (healthcare) and on [May 30](#) (legal) for anyone interested in learning more about the programs.

“We are so appreciative of the Plan A Foundation’s generosity,” stated Liliya Spinazzola, senior director of professional education business development and strategic initiatives for TEC. “Texas is already amazingly diverse, and the number of interpreters and translators needed by businesses here is expected to continue growing rapidly. We are excited to offer educational programs to help meet that need and scholarships to support career training for bilingual Texans.”

The Plan A Foundation was co-founded by Inna Kassatkina and Olga Smirnova with the mission of providing mentorship, education, resources and accountability to help others, particularly women and first-generation immigrants, achieve their life’s vision. As entrepreneurs and humanitarians, who are also immigrants, Smirnova and Kassatkina want to support others in their pursuit of the American Dream.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, applicants must meet the requirements to enroll in the interpreter programs and submit two short essays addressing their passion for languages and their career goals and aspirations.

The Plan A Scholarship application deadline is midnight on Monday, June 4, 2019.

Individuals or businesses interested in supporting scholarship initiatives for professional education programs are invited to donate to the TEC scholarship fund through a [secure online portal](#).

For more information, visit: <https://professionaled.utexas.edu/plana-scholarship>

About [TEXAS Extended Campus](#)

As part of The University of Texas at Austin, TEXAS Extended Campus (TEC) draws upon the multiple strengths of the University to develop and offer programs that serve working professionals and lifelong learners in Austin and across Texas. Faculty members, industry professionals and curriculum experts produce courses and programs to benefit students at the high school, college and professional levels. Courses are available on campus, online and on site.

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