



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ELMHURST HOSPITAL CENTER (EHC) HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR
HEALTHCARE INTERPRETERS TRAINED BY CULTURESMT**

WHAT: Invitation to Healthcare Interpreter Graduation

WHEN: Friday, March 23, 2007, at 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Elmhurst Hospital Center's Auditorium – 79-01 Broadway, Room A1-22

On Friday, March 23, 2007, at 3:30 p.m., Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) and Culturesmart, Inc., will celebrate the graduation of 18 newly trained healthcare interpreters who completed an open-enrollment 45-hour Medical Interpreter Training Course taught by Culturesmart.

Guest speakers at the ceremony will include Azadeh Khalili, Deputy Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs;; David Golub, Regional Vice President, Queens, American Cancer Society; and Kwang S. Kim, President of Korean Community Services.

Chris Constantino, Executive Director at Elmhurst Hospital stated "Elmhurst Hospital Center has been the gold standard in interpretation and we provide the appropriate interpretation for any patients needing that service as part of their care. Through our medical interpretation program we have trained over 60 interpreters to improve our patient care."

"We were very happy to return to Elmhurst Hospital Center for a fifth program," says Greg Figaro, Culturesmart's President. "We are excited that a growing group of Culturesmart-trained interpreters is providing much-needed services to patients in a community where so many languages are spoken." Culturesmart has trained more than 150 interpreting candidates in New York City, mostly in the borough of Queens.

In order to qualify for training, participants had to demonstrate fluency in both English and either Chinese-Mandarin, Korean, or Spanish. All participants were either Elmhurst Hospital volunteers, individuals interested in entering the healthcare interpretation field, freelance interpreters, or staff at Elmhurst Hospital, the American Cancer Society, or Mount Sinai Medical Center who interpret in addition to their regular job duties.

About Elmhurst Hospital Center

Elmhurst Hospital Center is a member of the Queens Health Network, part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and affiliated with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. For more information regarding this event or about Elmhurst Hospital Center, please call Jacki McCann in the External Affairs department at 718-334-5207 or visit our website at www.ElmhurstHospitalCenter.org.

About Culturesmart, Inc.

Culturesmart is an organization that has been specializing in medical interpreting since 1991. The company offers consulting services and customized training programs and has trained over 2,000 interpreters speaking more than 21 languages from 2000 to date. The fourth edition of its medical interpreter training curriculum and course book was introduced in 2006 and renamed "The Essential Piece™." For more information about Culturesmart, Inc., visit www.culturesmart.org, email info@culturesmart.org or contact Greg Figaro, president and lead trainer, at (888) 216-1887.

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