Paving the Way to Health Care Access:
Two Days of Learning for Interpreters

Tony Winsor Award Recipient for 2018:
Joy Connell

Words from Nomination Committee:

This year, once again, the selection committee received nominations that were truly compelling. The selection of Joy Connell was based on her 30 years of service with community-based organizations, with a focus on refugees and immigrants, and a passion for linguistic access for Limited English proficient groups seeking health care. This passion cemented her involved in the Medical Interpreter world for the past 3 decades.

Ms. Connell has been involved with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health’s (DMH) Interpreter Services program since its inception in 1988. The DMH Interpreter Services program is the longest-running and most active program among all state agencies in the Commonwealth. In addition to program coordination, she developed and presented numerous trainings to both interpreters and providers working with interpreters.

Her nomination reminded the committee of Joy’s time as the thoughtful and unpretentious President of the MMIA, pitching in before one of the early conferences making hors d’oeuvres for a first ever reception for attendees to keep costs low for the participants. Joy was also involved in helping Tony Winsor himself, for whom the award is named, in the passage of the Emergency Room Interpreter Law.

In addition to her accomplishments and contributions in Massachusetts to the Medical Interpreter field – Joy took her support and passion to the National stage, where her leadership in, and contribution to the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care has contributed to many successful outcomes, including the National Standards of Practice, and an annual National Council Membership meeting. Joy is not only one of our Massachusetts treasures, but a champion on the national and international stage for medical interpreters.
Nominees for 2018

- **Found in Translation** (organization)
- **Avlot Quessa**, Director, Multicultural Affairs & Patient Services, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge MA
- **Solanda Owen**, Medical Interpreter, Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic, Nashua, NH

*With thanks to the Nomination Committee members:*

Carla Fogaren, System Director of Diversity Initiatives and Interpreter Services, Steward Health Care
Shari Gold-Gomez, Director Interpreter Services, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Jane Kontrimas, CoreCHI™, Russian Interpreter, Training Coordinator, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Elena Langdon, Interpreter Trainer, UMass Medical School