

For Immediate Release – September 18, 2006

Contact: Gregory Figaro
Telephone: (617) 890-1111
Toll Free: (888) 216-1887
Email: greg@culturesmart.org

CULTURESMART, INC. TO OFFER MEDICAL INTERPRETER TRAINING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN NEW YORK CITY

***The Essential Piece™* 45-Hour Multilingual Training Scheduled at Elmhurst Hospital Center**

QUINCY, MA – 9/15/06 – Culturesmart, Inc., a medical interpreter training company, announced it will offer its 45-hour medical interpreter training course, “The Essential Piece™,” at Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) beginning on October 27, 2006.

The program will train interpreters and other bilingual individuals who speak Korean, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish, and extend a long-standing relationship between Culturesmart and EHC. “We are very excited to return to Elmhurst Hospital Center,” says Greg Figaro, Culturesmart’s president. “In 2004, in the span of 12 weeks, we trained over 100 participants who speak seven languages. This project has been vital to establishing Queens Health Network as a trendsetter in instituting standards for training interpreters in New York City.

“EHC has graciously offered us space for the training, and we will include 10 staff members and volunteers from the Queens Health Network in the group,” added Figaro. “We are pleased to have the opportunity to offer our training program to New York hospitals and help enhance their ability to communicate with one of the most linguistically diverse populations in the country.”

Culturesmart’s “Essential Piece” curriculum covers professional and ethical standards, interpreting techniques, health disparities, patient culture, medical terminology in target languages, interpreting practice, and other topics. Early registration tuition, before Monday, October 16, 2006, is \$995 and \$1,095 thereafter. Participants undergo pre-program screening and take proficiency assessments when the training concludes. **The EHC program will run from October 27-December 1, 2006.** For information or to register, please visit <http://www.culturesmart.org/tepnyc.php>

Figaro said medical interpreting is crucial to reducing linguistic and cultural barriers that inhibit crucial communication between doctors and patients with low levels of English proficiency, noting “the interpreter sees all the aspects -- visible and invisible -- of the cultures of the patient and doctor, and then communicates them between the two.”

About Culturesmart, Inc.

Culturesmart is a privately held organization that has been specializing in medical interpreting since 1991. The company offers consulting services and customized training programs. Culturesmart trained over 1,000 interpreters speaking more than 21 languages during 2000-2006. The fourth edition of its medical interpreter training curriculum and course book was renamed and introduced as “The Essential Piece™,” this year. Culturesmart’s core staff of trainers possess over 80 years of collective medical interpreter training experience and 150 years of interpreting practice. For additional information, visit www.culturesmart.org, email tep@culturesmart.org or contact Greg Figaro, president and senior consultant to the program at (888) 216-1887.

###