

# Distinguished Graduate

# 2023



## Barbara Mutz

ASL INTERPRETER

*“That’s how a diamond grows, give yourself the right chance over time. Don’t believe them if they try to sell you something quicker.”*

– Jimmy Eat World

Barbara is a first-generation Mexican American college student. At an early age, she interpreted between English and Spanish for her family, and saw firsthand the need for equal access in communication. As an adult, she decided to pursue an education in American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting. She embraces the opportunity to serve a community different than the one she grew up in.

Since joining the interpreting training program, she has become a member of the Connection Club, the ASL Honor Society (ASLHS), a student member of Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf, and the ASL Gleek Squad. Through ASLHS she is eligible to receive the Laurent Clerc Medal of Honor for academic excellence in ASL studies.

At times it was overwhelming working full time during her schooling. She has been encouraged by her husband and family to persist. A mantra shared by her mom rang true throughout. “No te quedas en el medio del rio,” a Spanish idiom meaning “Don’t stop pursuing your dream in the middle of the journey.”

Barbara hopes to give back to the program as a future mentor. She looks forward to earning Board for Evaluation Interpreters state certification and hopes to become a tri-lingual interpreter.



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