



Welcome to NCRA's revived student quarterly, *Up-to-Speed*. This newsletter features insights and tips especially for court reporting students. Check out our "schools in the news" section, a sneak peek at the NCRA Convention & Expo, and a few scholarship and grant opportunities. Enjoy!

Student Spotlight

The confidence to succeed in school

Staying motivated in court reporting school is a struggle that every student faces. This quarter, we spotlight Rachel Ellefson, RPR, a recent graduate of Des Moines Area Community College in Des Moines, Ill. who now works as an official reporter for the State of Iowa. Rachel has some advice for students: try to find the confidence to overcome self-doubt and practice, practice, practice!



[Read more.](#)

In this issue, *Up-to-Speed* highlights a recent grad who understands the link between confidence and practice. Do you know a student or students who should be in the spotlight? [Let us know.](#) Students in the spotlight must currently attend an NCRA-approved court reporting program.



And the winners are...

In honor of 2017 Court Reporting & Captioning Week, NCRA's Student Committee challenged court reporting students to transcribe as many tests as possible during the week to qualify for a prize. First place was awarded to Angela Patla, a student at South Suburban College, Oak Forest, Ill. Robyn Broyles a student at GateWay Community College, Phoenix, Ariz., earned second place, and Evie Morris, a student at the Court

Reporting Institute of St. Louis, Mo., earned third place.

[Read more.](#)



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2017 NCRA CONVENTION & EXPO

JOIN US IN LAS VEGAS!
Aug. 10–13

Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino

- ★ Register at reduced student pricing
- ★ Learn at student-only sessions
- ★ Network with professionals and other students
- ★ Visit vendors in the Expo Hall

2017 NCRA Convention & Expo

Rub shoulders with the pros

Joe Strickland, RPR, CRR, CRC, retired chief reporter at the U.S. House of Representatives, attended his first NCRA Convention when he was still in school. “I’ll never forget attending the Awards Luncheon. I was intimidated by the ballroom full of professionals who all seemed to know each other, but my concerns were allayed by my warm, friendly tablemates,” he said. Strickland will participate in a reporter speed-dating session for the student track.

[Read more.](#)

Learn more about the [speakers](#) and [sessions](#).



Things to learn, people to meet: Navigating the NCRA Convention & Expo as a student

Court reporting students agree: Meeting new people and learning new things are the best reasons to attend a conference like the NCRA Convention & Expo. Students who have attended one of the past Conventions share their advice for making the most out of

the experience, just in time for the 2017 NCRA Convention & Expo, Aug. 10-13, at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nev.

[Read more.](#)

Students ... are you getting ready to launch? *Up-to-Speed* wants to hear what you are doing to prepare for life beyond the classroom. Have you completed an internship? How are you searching for a job? Are you working on your certifications? Fill out our short questionnaire, and we may feature you in our July issue.

[Share your thoughts](#)



Grants and Scholarships

NCRF currently accepting nominations for grant and scholarship

The National Court Reporters Foundation is now accepting nominations for the Robert H. Clark Scholarship and the New Professional Reporter Grant. The deadline for both the scholarship and the grant is April 21. "I am in the home stretch of court reporting school, and this scholarship will help me pay for my last quarters in school as well as certification testing," said Natasha Jones after receiving the \$2,000 Robert H. Clark Scholarship in 2016.

[Read more.](#)

CASE scholarship deadline extended to April 30

The Council on Approved Student Education is accepting applications for three student scholarships in the amounts of \$500, \$1,000, and \$1,500. Applicants must meet a number of requirements to be eligible, including attending an NCRA-approved court reporting program, writing between 140 and 180 wpm, and submitting a two-page essay on a pre-selected topic.

[Read more.](#)

Schools in the news

- [South Suburban College's court reporting program creates new Facebook page](#)
- [Green River Community College students participate in mock depositions](#)
- [Celebration of Student Engagement event highlights court reporting and captioning](#)

Testing center

- Good luck to everyone taking the RPR Written Knowledge Test in April!
- The next [RPR Written Knowledge Test registration](#) period is June 1-30.
- The second quarter for the [online RPR Skills Test](#) opened April 5 with new testing opportunities.

Want to see your school in the news? *Up-to-Speed* is looking for news from court reporting programs to feature in our newsletter. Send ideas and information to schools@ncra.org.

Questions of the Quarter

What do you do when you don't feel like practicing anymore?

49.2% – I push myself to practice anyway!
16.9% – I might do a few finger drills and then call it a day.
30.8% – I step away from the machine and come back to it when I'm motivated again.
3.1% – I throw that !@#\$% machine out the window!

How would you describe court reporting school to an interested friend?

69.6% – Challenging, but totally worth it.
8.9% – What doesn't kill you makes you stronger!
16.1% – We're all mad here.
5.4% – KRAOL

How important is it to you to graduate from court reporting school quickly?

I'm in no rush. It will come when it comes.

Select

I've got people depending on me to graduate as soon as possible!

Select

I set a goal to graduate by a certain date, but things might change.

Select

I'm graduating by a certain date no matter what!

Select

My court reporting classmates are ...

... a great source of inspiration!

Select

... a constant distraction/downer!

Select

... some friendly competition!

Select

What classmates?

Select

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