



Up-to-Speed



JCR Published by NCRA for
court reporting and
captioning students

Student Newsletter

Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting and captioning students. In this issue, students talk about their inspiration for becoming court reporters and we wrap up 2018 Court Reporting & Captioning Week.

Student Spotlight



A Lucky Cab Ride

"I explained that I had graduated with an English degree, but felt unfilled with my attempts at finding a career, so I decided to start driving for Uber because I was currently trying 'to find myself'." In essence, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, described – in as much detail and passion as a 20-minute car ride allowed – all the pros and cons of the court reporting world.

[Read more.](#)

Do you know a student currently attending an NCRA-approved court reporting program who should be in the spotlight? [Let us know.](#)

Who Are Court Reporting Students?

Why Are We Here? The Path to Court Reporting School

Court reporting students may share the common desire to become professionals in their field, but each has followed a unique path to get there. They arrive at school with different experiences, for different reasons, and with different plans for the future. *Up-to-Speed* reached out to students to ask them why they chose court reporting, where they get their inspiration, and what lies ahead.

[Read more.](#)

How Did We Get Here? Life Before Court Reporting School

They come from diverse backgrounds, some with no prior job experience and others with 30 or more years behind them. Court reporting students are recent high school grads, stay-at-home parents, and veterans. They have worked in education, public service, law, and business. These students each took a different path, but they came to the same place with a similar goal.

[Read more.](#)



Atlantic Technical College



Des Moines Area
Community College



Cuyahoga Community
College

Keys to Success for the Adult Learner



By Kay Moody – Many adjectives describe the typical court reporting student: busy, mature, single parent, employed, easily frustrated, second career, and self-supporting. Court reporting students are adults who are involved in many demanding, life-changing, time-consuming, and mentally depleting activities that interfere with their focus and concentration and that can sometimes hinder the time they can spend on skill development.

[Read more.](#)

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We Want to Hear from You!

Students: Do you have a mentor? Let us know how your mentoring experience is going or how it could be better. Fill out this short questionnaire and we may feature you in our May issue.

[Share your thoughts](#)

2018 Court Reporting & Captioning Week

*Schools and Students Across the
Country Celebrate Court Reporting &
Captioning Week*

Schools and students from across the country participated in NCRA's student speed contest last month. The contest, which was part of NCRA's Court Reporting & Captioning Week celebration, garnered widespread involvement, with 182 students competing from all over the country.

[Read more.](#)



Student Speed Contest Winners Announced

NCRA congratulates the winners of the Court Reporting & Captioning Week student speed contest. The NCRA Student/Teacher Committee sponsored the Olympic-themed speed test, which was offered to all students at varying test speeds. Of the students who passed the five-minute dictation test, three winners were drawn at random.

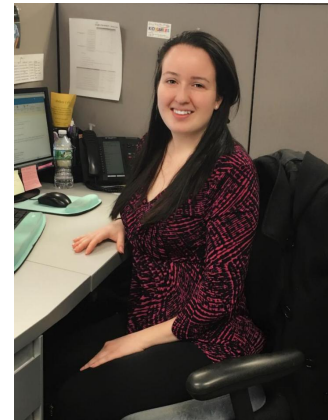
[Read more.](#)



Kelsie Alford of Green River College in Auburn, Wash., was awarded the Gold medal.



Julie Drew of Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, Alberta was awarded the Silver medal.



Samantha Marshak of Realtime Center for Learning, Inc. in Garden City, N.Y., was awarded the Bronze medal.

Grants and Scholarships

Student Scholarship Opportunities: CASE Scholarship Application Due April 30



NCRA is accepting CASE student scholarship applications for five awards this year. The Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) has increased the number of scholarships available from three to five this year to better support the future of the profession. The top award is \$1,500; second award, \$1,000; third award, \$750; fourth award, \$500; and fifth award, \$250. To be eligible to apply, students must currently be attending an NCRA-approved court reporting program, have an exemplary academic record, and have passed one

skills test writing 140-180 wpm at the time of submission. In addition, applicants must submit an essay on the topic, "Pick an experience during your court reporting education and explain how it has influenced your development." Deadline for applications is April 30. See the [CASE student scholarship page](#) for full details.



Join NCRA by **March 31** to be entered into a drawing to **WIN A KINDLE FIRE.**



NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR

CASE Award of Excellence
to an outstanding educator

Five CASE Student Scholarships
\$250-\$1,500



Schools in the news

- [Brown College Celebrates 2018 Court Reporting & Captioning Week with a Number of Events](#)
- [Cypress College of Court Reporting Celebrates Four Decades](#)
- [Realtime Center for Learning Celebrates NCRA's 2018 Court Reporting & Captioning Week](#)
- [Court Reporting Makes Comeback as More Legal Proceedings Demand Human Touch](#)
- [Court Reporter Shortage Impacts Trials, Hearings](#)
- [Monday's Montanans: Missoula Court Reporters Keep the Record Clear](#)

Testing center

- The next [RPR Written Knowledge Test registration](#) period is March 1-31.
- Good luck to everyone taking the RPR Written Knowledge Test in April!
- The second quarter for the [online RPR Skills Test](#) opens April 4 with new testing opportunities.
- [Read the online skills testing FAQs.](#)

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 Month

What is your steno goal for 2018?

42.1% – Become certified
38.6% – Prepare a more focused practice plan and practice daily
8.8% – Transcribe every test
3.5% – Find a mentor through NCRA's Virtual Mentor Program

What is your non-steno goal for 2018?

16.7% – Develop healthy eating habits
37.5% – Get fit and exercise regularly
29.2% – Focus on time management and get organized
12.5% – Go with the flow and not set any goals

What has been your struggle area in school?

Reading back

Select

Transcribing

Select

Keeping up with academics/homework

Select

Attending class

Select

Practicing every day

Select

Where do you turn for steno advice?

Mentor from NCRA

Select

Mentor from state association/other

Select

Facebook steno groups

Select

Peers and/or teachers

Select

Other online resources

Select

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