Welcome to NCRA’s student newsletter, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting students. Think there’s never enough time to practice? Read about a mom of four who finished her court reporting degree in just three years. And it’s never too early to start thinking about next year’s NCRA Convention & Expo in Orlando, Fla. Read one student’s review of last month’s annual convention.

**Student Spotlight**

*Learning steno as her third language*

The traditional court reporting student is anything but traditional. Zoila Chamale is no different. As a native Spanish speaker, she had another hurdle to climb. But Chamale is relentlessly positive.

“I am always learning something new about the English language. I am up to the challenge of learning new words.” *Up-to-Speed* interviewed Chamale about her experiences.

[Read more.](#)

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

**You Can Do It!**

*Hitting the jury duty lottery*

Military spouse Kindra Barton taught fourth grade, traveled around the world, and raised four children before her path finally led her to court reporting school. Now, at 42, she has just graduated from Des Moines Area Community College in Newton, Iowa.

“I hope that by going back to school I have taught my kids not to be afraid to do something difficult, and that it is never too late to change directions,” Barton shares in her personal story inside.

[Read more.](#)
**Seen on Social Media**

*Why I love court reporting: Aimee Edwards-Altadonna*

Aimee Edwards-Altadonna, a freelance reporter and CCRA board member, recently posted in the Facebook group "Encouraging Court Reporting Students."

"Students," she begins, "I want to talk to you about how quickly your life can flip into an amazing place once you are certified and out there busting your butt as a court reporter."

[Read more.](#)

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**Did you know?**

*How can you get involved with NCRA?*

**JOIN** NCRA with a student membership. Become a member to get discounts on testing, convention registration, study guides, and more.

**CONTRIBUTE** to *Up-to-Speed* by submitting articles, study tips, questions for reporters and instructors, and suggestions.

**LEARN** about upcoming scholarship and grant opportunities.

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**NCRA Convention & Expo**

*Review: a student rates the NCRA Convention & Expo*

April Frederick, court reporting student at Cuyahoga Community College in Parma, Ohio, shares her personal experience of attending her first NCRA Convention & Expo.

"As soon as I stepped into the welcome area of..."
At the convention, I was greeted by a working reporter who exclaimed, 'Yay! Another student!' ... I felt complete support and acceptance from everyone I had the pleasure of meeting." Read more.

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**Grants and Scholarships**

**NCRF Student Intern $1,000 Scholarship opens Oct. 1**

The National Court Reporters Foundation will begin accepting applications for the Student Intern Scholarship, a $1,000 award, on Oct. 1. Read more.

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**New student memberships free for rest of 2019**

NCRA is currently offering free student memberships to new members for the remainder of 2019. Interested students should apply on the NCRA website. Read more.

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**Questions of the Month**

**If you are a court reporting student, when did you start your program?**

- 5.8% – Right out of high school.
- 5.8% – After transferring from a different degree program.
- 19.2% – After completing a different degree first.
- 59.6% – After a career in a different field.
- 9.6% – Other.

**If you could caption just one big event, what would it be?**

- 5.4% – The Women's World Cup Final.
- 40.5% – The State of the Union Address.
- 16.2% – The Summer Olympics.
- 27.0% – The Academy Awards.
- 10.8% – A Beyoncé concert.
Are you currently a member of NCRA?

- Yes, I've been a member for a year or more. [Select]
- Yes, I just joined with the free student membership offer for 2019. [Select]
- No, I used to be a member but I haven't renewed. [Select]
- No, but I am interested in learning more about member benefits. [Select]
- No, I'm not interested in membership at this time. [Select]

Which best describes your current role?

- Student [Select]
- Teacher [Select]
- School Administrator [Select]
- Reporter or Captioner [Select]
- None of the Above [Select]

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.

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**Schools in the news**

- [Downey Adult School congratulates 10 students](#)
- [Local college launching court reporter program](#)
- [Student webinar success in New York](#)
- [Plaza College is offering 4-week A to Z™ program for High School students](#)

**Testing center**

- [Online skills testing registration begins Oct. 1](#)
- [Review 'How to Take an NCRA Skills Test'](#)
- [Read NCRA Exam Retention Policy](#)

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