

July 2020



Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting students. In this issue, read about what it's like to go back to court reporting school after many years, how to enter to win an NCRA Connect Virtual 2020 registration, and why a podcast may be a creative teaching (and learning) tool.

## Student Spotlight



### Why I have chosen to be a court reporter ... again

Kimberly S. Coltrain graduated from court reporting school 30 years ago, right before a hiring freeze. Her life went in a different direction, but "the flicker of court reporting never completely extinguished." Twenty-seven years later, Coltrain went back to school. Daunted by the new challenge, she was ready to give up when a phone call changed her mind. "There I was, in the middle of Wal-Mart, preparing to fill out an application to supplement my school clerk salary, and my phone went off. I'm so glad I answered!"

[Read more.](#)

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

## NCRA Connect Virtual 2020

## Be a part of NCRA's first-ever virtual conference!

Gear up for a new experience! NCRA Connect Virtual 2020 is happening Aug. 7-9 offering nearly three days of educational sessions, vendor presentations, and networking opportunities. Choose from a number of sessions to attend live and have access to recorded sessions through midnight Aug. 25. Students can purchase a full registration package for the special price of \$60 members/\$75 nonmembers.



*Join us*  
**August 7-9**

- **Learn**
- **Network**
- **Celebrate**

[Read more.](#)

### **STUDENTS** Interested in attending?

Sign up now for a chance  
to win a free registration!

**Deadline July 30, 2020**

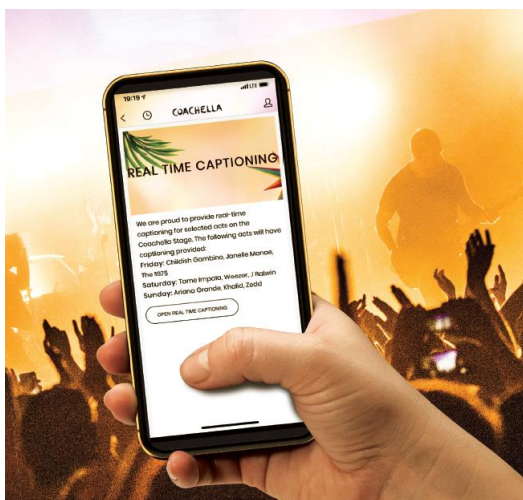


## Students, want to win a registration to NCRA Connect Virtual 2020?

NCRA is hosting a drawing on Facebook to give away 10 student registrations, courtesy of Phipps Reporting, West Palm Beach, Fla., to attend the NCRA Connect Virtual 2020 conference happening Aug. 7-9.

[Read more.](#)

## Features



## Behind the tech of captioning for Coachella and Stagecoach

NCRA member and captioner Stanley Sakai, CRC, helped us delve into the technical aspects of his collaboration with captioner Isaiah Roberts, RPR, on the Coachella and Stagecoach captioning projects.

[Read more.](#)

## Listen to a steno podcast ... or create one of your own

Podcasts aren't just for true crime anymore. They can be a creative teaching tool in the stenography classroom. Both instructors and students can create their own podcasts to aid in practice, concentration, and readback. Professional podcasts, too, offer a unique resource for students as they offer insight into the working lives of seasoned court reporters and captioners. Carol Adams, RPR, MCRI, distance education director at Huntington Junior College in W.Va., breaks it all down.



[Read more.](#)

## How You Can Get Involved with NCRA

[JOIN](#) NCRA as a student member and get access to 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 other suggestions.

[LEARN](#) about upcoming scholarship and grant opportunities.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**REGISTER IN AUGUST**  
Online Skills Test (SKT)  
RSR, RPR, RMR,  
CRR, and CRC

Registration open **August 1-20**  
for testing September 1-20

**Discover the Difference. Try it Free.**

**Eclipse**  
Student Edition

**ADVANTAGE SOFTWARE**  
A Partner You Can Count On

## New Professional Profile



## New Professional Profile: Douglas Armstrong

Douglas Armstrong, RPR, is a freelance court reporter in Seattle, Wash. He is a 2018 graduate of the Green River College court reporting program and is the current chair of the school's Court Reporting and Captioning Advisory Committee. He loves opera and animals and spends way too much time thinking about Academy Awards trivia.

[Read more.](#)

## Grants and Scholarships



## Winners of 2020 CASE Scholarships announced

NCRA is pleased to announce the five winners of the 2020 CASE (Council on Approved Student Education) Student Scholarships. Winners are chosen based on a weighted combination of speed, GPA, recommendations, and a written essay. This year's essay question was: "What do you think makes you good at writing steno, and what skill sets do you possess that you believe will help you build your career as a court reporter?"

[Read more.](#)

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## NCRA announces 2020 A to Z® Scholarship recipients

Congratulations to the winners of this year's NCRA A to Z® Scholarships. Winning scores are based on teacher recommendations, speed, and GPA. Scholarship applicants must have completed an NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program and be currently enrolled in a court reporting program.



[Read more.](#)

### Questions of the Month

Are you a member of your state court reporters association?

37% – Yes  
8.6% – No, but I used to be a member.  
40.7% – No, but I am interested in joining.  
1.2% – No; I have no interest in joining the state association.  
12.3% – I didn't know my state had [an association.](#)

When was the last time you ate in a restaurant?

0% – Today  
8.6% – This week  
11.4% – Last week  
44.3% – March  
35.7% – What is a restaurant?

In this COVID-19 period of time, what does your practice lifestyle most closely resemble?

**Pajamas in bed**

[Select](#)

**Leggings in front of TV**

[Select](#)

**Full dress in front of computer desk/laptop**

[Select](#)

**T-shirt at kitchen/dining room table**

[Select](#)

**Practice? What practice?**

[Select](#)

You are a fly on the wall. Which event would you like to witness?

Woodstock

[Select](#)

Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech

[Select](#)

Moon landing

[Select](#)

A Super Bowl/World Series championship

[Select](#)

Signing of the U.S Constitution

[Select](#)

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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](mailto:schools@ncra.org).

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## Schools in the news

- [TVCC offers new online court reporting program](#)
- [NCRA members aid in law school's court simulations](#)

## Testing center

- [Online Skills Test registration opens Aug. 1](#)
- [Testing update](#)
- [Block scheduling FAQs](#)

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