

June 2021



Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting students. In this issue, find out what's missing from your pandemic dictionary, get a preview of next month's NCRA Conference & Expo in Las Vegas, Nev., and meet our latest scholarship winners.

Student Spotlight

Pushing herself to reach her goals

Jennifer Wolfert's journey into stenography began with a posting on Reddit that piqued her interest. After completing the NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program, she enrolled at the College of Court Reporting in Valparaiso, Ind. She attends school while also working full time at an advertising agency.

[Read more.](#)



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

School spotlight

NCRA SCHOOL Spotlight

Arlington Career Institute and South Suburban College

In every issue we highlight NCRA-approved schools. The court reporter programs offered at these schools have met the General Requirements and Minimum Standards established by the Council on Approved Student Education of NCRA. This is a chance for members to get to know these programs and hear from their students and teachers. This time we feature two schools:

[Arlington Career Institute](#)

[South Suburban College](#)

Lessons from COVID-19



Pandemic terminology

By Melissa S. Lee

If 2020 has proven anything to us, it is that change is the only constant in life. With the introduction of the **COVID-19** virus, aka “**Rona**,” to the masses in early 2020, so began the shutdown of the entire country on Friday the 13th (no coincidence, I’m sure) of March; the long **quarantine** implemented; the homeschooling of our **Coronatweens** and **-teens** by us **WFH** parents causing our Monday through Friday to morph into one big **Blursday** and, perhaps, the need for a **quarantini** (no judging).

[Read more.](#)

2021 NCRA Conference & Expo

2021 NCRA Conference & Expo student sessions

This year's NCRA Conference & Expo is live and in person and under the bright lights of Las Vegas, Nev. Check out the slate of sessions planned especially for students. We've got one old favorite and three exciting new sessions. Students are also invited to a special Student Breakfast and Welcome on Friday morning where they can meet other students and get an overview of the Conference. Don't miss the Meet and Greet with the NCRA Board of Directors.

[Read more.](#)

SAVE! Book your hotel by July 2 for the best rates.
Connect with friends and colleagues, learn something new, expand your networks, and have fun in exciting Las Vegas.

July 29–August 1
Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino • Las Vegas, Nevada



What students are looking forward to at Conference

This year's NCRA Conference & Expo in Las Vegas, Nev., has already attracted more than 100 student registrants. A few of them are local to the Las Vegas area, more than half are from California, there's a big group coming from Texas and Oklahoma, and some are from as far away as Massachusetts and Florida. *Up-to-Speed* reached out to several of these students to ask them what they are looking forward to most.

[Read more.](#)

Students remember 2019 Denver Convention

I attended an NCRA Convention & Expo before my first day of court reporting school

By Mallory Ferriter

In 2019, I had the opportunity to attend the NCRA Convention & Expo in Denver, Colo. My decision to attend the Convention was a little unusual because I was brand-new to the profession, and I mean *brand-new*. I felt empowered attending the Convention. I met successful graduates of court reporting school who shared a consistent message: Work hard and you can do this.



[Read more.](#)



High Tea for High Achievers

By Dana Spear

I love attending NCRA Conferences and would encourage any student to attend if they are able. In 2019, I was fortunate to attend the NCRA Convention & Expo in Denver, Colo., as a student. It was a great privilege to be there and rub shoulders with so many amazing court reporters and captioners and to learn more about this amazing profession. One event, however, stands out in my mind as one of the highlights of my experience: High tea.

[Read more.](#)

Professionals share passion and experience with students

By Sierra Zanghi

Sometimes court reporting school can feel like the definition of insanity: Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. When you're spending two to six years in school, seemingly endlessly cycling through drills and exercises and takes and readbacks, sometimes the frustration and doubt can build up. Conferences, seminars, mentors, and practice groups are just the thing to rekindle one's love of steno.



[Read more.](#)

How You Can Get Involved with NCRA

JOIN NCRA as a student member and get access to discounts on testing, Conference 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.



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[LEARN MORE](#)

The deadline is coming up fast!

REGISTER BY JUNE 30

for the RPR, RDR, CRC, and CLVS

WRITTEN KNOWLEDGE TESTS (WKT)

for testing July 8–22



Grants and scholarships



NCRA 2021 CASE Scholarship winners announced

The recipient of the first 2021 Sue Shelton White Scholarship awarded by NCRA's Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) is Kimberly Coltrain, a student at the College of Court Reporting in Valparaiso, Ill. The \$1,500 scholarship is one of five CASE awards each year. It was renamed in honor of White's national role in the women's suffrage movement.

[Read more.](#)

2021 NCRA A to Z Scholarship winners announced

NCRA is pleased to announce the 2021 NCRA A to Z® Scholarship winners. The scholarship program awards up to 10 students annually with a \$500 scholarship. Qualified applicants must have completed the NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program as well as pass a skills test writing between 60 and 100 wpm, among other eligibility requirements.

[Read more.](#)



NCRF announces the 2021 winner of the Stenograph Milton H. Wright Scholarship

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) has announced that Christine Romans, a student at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton, Alberta, is the 2021 winner of the Stenograph Milton H. Wright Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship honors the memory of Milton H. Wright, Stenograph's founder.

[Read more.](#)

Question of the Month

What are your plans for the summer?

36% – Attend the NCRA Conference & Expo in Las Vegas, Nev.
40% – Work on my certification
8% – Take a break!
16% – Other

How did you celebrate 2021 NCRA Court Reporting and Captioning Week?

20% – My school held an event
42.9% – I attended NCRA's Students Love Steno Nights
25.7% – Other
11.4% – I didn't know about it

Are you planning to attend the NCRA Conference & Expo in Las Vegas, Nev., next month?

Yes. I have already registered.

[Select](#)

Yes. I am planning to register.

[Select](#)

No. I will not be attending this year.

[Select](#)

I haven't decided yet.

[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 jcrfeedback@ncra.org.

Schools in the news

- [NCRA student member inducted into Del Mar College student hall of fame](#)
- [Classes for court reporters to be offered at Pearl River Community College](#)

Testing center

- [Written Knowledge Test registration ends June 30](#)
- [Exam Retention Policy – Don't wait until it's too late!](#)

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National Court Reporters Association | 12030 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 400, Reston, VA 20191

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