

December 2021



Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting students. In this issue, get pro tips from veteran court reporters, learn how to explain why AI systems like Siri shouldn't cover your next trial, and read about a career-changer who's ready to get by with a little help from, well, everybody. And don't forget to check out all the great scholarships and grants we've got coming up in 2022.

Student Spotlight

Career-changer student builds a support team from community, instructors, and mentors

These days, there is no "typical" court reporting student. It may be someone fresh out of high school, a stay-at-home parent, or in the case of this issue's *Student Spotlight*, someone who has already had a full career in a different field. Emily Patterson started court reporting school in her late 50s and admits that it was an uphill climb. But she's learned to take care of herself by asking for help: "My goal is to seek out others who have already been where I'm going, so that I can continue to grow and glean from their wisdom."



[Read more.](#)

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

School Spotlight



Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and Des Moines Area Community College

In every issue we highlight two 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.

[Northern Alberta Institute of Technology](#)

[Des Moines Area Community College](#)

 **Humphreys University**
EST. 1896

Your Bachelor Degree in Court Reporting Awaits

Your CSR license and experience provides you: **116** UNITS

Units needed to complete your bachelor's degree: **65** UNITS

We accept transferrable courses to use toward the 65 units. Classes operate on 11-week quarters and are 100% online. Nonprofit, WSCUC accredited university established in 1896. Accessible and experienced instructors.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN OUR INDUSTRY**

Pro tips for students



DMACC students share favorite tips from NCRA President Debbie Dibble

NCRA President Debbie Dibble, RDR, CRR, CRC, recently visited the virtual classroom at Des Moines Area Community College in Des Moines, Iowa, and her enthusiasm and love of the court reporting profession were contagious.

Dibble also created a video to share with all students to encourage them to stay positive and motivated throughout their journey.

[Read more.](#)

Taking it step by step to reach your goals

By Geanell Adams

It is important that, as students on this journey, you remember why you are here, set mini-goals, share your long- and short-term goals with others, reward the small victories, and remember to ask for help. These tips will help you succeed and reach realistic goals that will build a foundation for lifelong joy and success in a career you will be passionate about.

[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.

LOADING...

2021  2022

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!

- ✓ **Register for an Online Skills Test**
RSR, RPR, RMR, CRR, and CRC
Registration open Dec. 1–20 for testing Jan. 1–20
- ✓ **Register for a Written Knowledge Test**
RPR, RDR, CRC, and CLVS
Registration open Dec. 1–31 for testing Jan. 4–19



NCRA | **Mentor Program** VIRTUAL

The NCRA Virtual Mentor Program is a great way for today's court reporters to offer students the guidance and encouragement they need.

Learn about becoming a mentor or finding a mentor.

Features



Steno Talk podcast surpasses 11k plays, continues to grow

NCRA member Anna Mar hosts the *Steno Talk* podcast, using her increasingly popular platform to raise awareness about issues that matter most to the next generation of court reporters. Check out episodes like, "To interrupt, or not to interrupt?" and "So you aren't out of school yet? It's cool."

[Read more.](#)

Would you let Siri be your court reporter?

By Angela Starbuck

“Hey, Siri ...”

Millions of Americans have uttered this phrase, probably even more since the pandemic began. How fitting, then, that one of the most well-known virtual assistants provides the perfect segue for you to advocate for stenography!

[Read more.](#)



Grants and Scholarships



NCRF opens two new financial opportunities for students

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) is pleased to announce both a new quarterly Career Launcher Student Grants program and the opening of Stenograph's Milton H. Wright Memorial Scholarship

[Learn more.](#)

A year's worth of scholarships courtesy of NCRF

If you are a student or new professional in the fields of court reporting or captioning, you should mark these dates on your calendar to apply for significant scholarship and grant dollars coming up in 2022.

[Read more.](#)



Up-to-Speed asks ...

What is your favorite thing about fall?

- 73.3% - The change in weather/Leaves changing color
- 10% - Halloween
- 13.3% - Thanksgiving
- 0% - Pumpkin spice latte
- 3.3% - Holiday shopping
- 0% - Something else

Have you ever applied for an NCRA or NCRF scholarship or grant?

Yes

Select

No

Select

No, but I plan to

Select

I was not aware that NCRA and NCRF had scholarships and grants

Select

Something else

Select



For information about upcoming scholarships and grants available for students and new professionals, please visit the [NCRA scholarships and grants](#) page.

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 jcfeedback@ncra.org.

Testing center

- [Registration for Online Skills Tests open until Dec. 20 for testing between Jan. 1 and Jan. 20, 2022](#)
- [Registration for Written Knowledge Tests open until Dec. 31 for testing between Jan. 4 and Jan. 19, 2022](#)

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