

March 2024

NCRA

# Up-to-Speed

JCR Published by NCRA for  
court reporting and  
captioning students

Student Newsletter

Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter. The 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo is happening this summer in Louisville, Ky., and you could be the lucky winner of a free student registration. We'll see you there!

## Student Spotlight



### Aloha

Carlene Sasaki, of Honolulu, Hawaii, is a lifelong gamer who finds inspiration in *Star Trek* and a welcoming community in her home state. "The court reporting and captioning community in Hawaii is small, but they are resilient and supportive," she says. "There is a feeling of acceptance and support that can only be summed up in one word, *Aloha*."

[Read more.](#)

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

## Celebrate teachers! #NCRAlovesteachers

By Amie First

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10. Join us in celebrating our teachers and you could win a free test leg! We offer some creative ideas for every day of the week. Show your love and share it at #NCRAlovesteachers.

[Read more.](#)



## 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo

### STUDENT REGISTRATION GIVEAWAYS

Win a **FREE** registration valued at **\$305!**



**FAST TRACK**  
*your skills to success*

AUG. 1-3, 2024 The Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky

### NCRA Conference & Expo student registration giveaways

Students wanting to attend the 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo can now apply for free registrations.

[Read more.](#)

### Conference preview: A look at Louisville

Add this to your summer schedule: The 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo is taking place at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Ky., from Aug. 1-3. Registration opens in early April, but you can start planning your trip now.

[Read more.](#)



### Get ready for Louisville!

The 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo

August 1-3

The Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY.

**REGISTRATION TO OPEN IN APRIL.**

**FAST TRACK**  
*your skills to success*



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.](#)

## Come work for us!

### We offer:

- ✓ Ample Work
- ✓ Weekly Pay
- ✓ Health Coverage Access



[LEARN MORE](#)

## Student Achievements



NCRA is proud to offer the Student Fast Lane program to recognize student speed accomplishments. NCRA reaches out to all court reporting programs asking for their assistance in recognizing student speed accomplishments at the 150, 160, 180, 200, and 225 wpm speeds.

[Read more.](#)



*Up-to-Speed* congratulates these students on completing their education!

[Read more.](#)

## Student Success

## “The rest was history”: An A to Z story

A background in linguistics and phonetics led Michelle Soto, of Boise, Idaho, to the NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program and then to enroll in school for court reporting. “I was driven by my own potential,” says Soto.

[Read more.](#)



## Networking is essential for a successful career, panelists say

The value of cultivating strong networking channels can never be underestimated for court reporters and captioners who want to achieve professional success. No question: Networking paves the way for better career opportunities.

[Read more.](#)

## Learn how the power of practice can take you everywhere you want to go

Join us for motivation and the tips and tricks to practicing, graduating, and earning certifications. NCRF's Ask Me Anything Task Force is offering its next ZoomUp on Tuesday, March 26, at 8 p.m. Eastern.

[Read more.](#)



ZoomUp brought to you by  
NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS FOUNDATION

NCRF helps students, new professionals, and reporters interested in starting or changing their career path gather information and ask their questions. Informational session only.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 8 PM** Eastern  
Practice and Certifications

**Free  
Event!**



[NCRA.org/home/events/ncrf-ask-me-anything](https://www.ncra.org/home/events/ncrf-ask-me-anything)

RECENT GRADUATES,  
WE HAVE OPENINGS!  
**SOUTH DAKOTA  
UNIFIED JUDICIAL  
SYSTEM**



The state of South Dakota offers a competitive compensation package for employees, including health & flexible benefits, a 6% fully-matched retirement plan, 10-12 paid holidays, sick & vacation leave, birthday leave, paid family leave, work-life balance, and so much more!

.....▶ [ujs.sd.gov](http://ujs.sd.gov) (click on job openings)



**NCRA MEMBERS AND FIRMS  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN OUR INDUSTRY**

## Grants and Scholarships

**STUDENTS, apply by JUNE 14  
for the next Career Launcher  
Scholarship drawing.**

You could earn an award that covers your 10-module NCRF Career Launcher fees.



### June 14 deadline for Career Launcher Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for the National Court Reporters Foundation quarterly Career Launcher Student Scholarships. The awards cover the cost to participate in the student program, which is \$100 for members and \$175 for nonmembers.

[Read more.](#)

### Two students tapped as NCRF Student Intern Scholarship winners

One consistent goal for National Court Reporter Foundation leaders is to motivate and nurture court reporter students. Sophia Critelli, of West Des Moines, Iowa, and Krista Bishop, of Fairfield Township, Ohio, were recently awarded NCRF student intern scholarships.



[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.

## Testing Center

### Upcoming testing

- [Registration for Written Knowledge Tests closes March 31 for testing in April](#)
- [Registration for Online Skills Tests opens April 1 for testing in May](#)

**Save the date:**

[In-person Skills Tests \(RSR, RPR, CRR, CRC\)](#) | Aug. 4 on site at the 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo in Louisville, Ky. Registration opens in April.



**LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION IS  
MARCH 31!**

Registration Dates WKT (RPR/RDR/CRC/CLVS)	Testing Period
March 1-31, 2024	April 3-17, 2024

Take the Leap in  
2024 and  
Become Certified!

NCRA

## Up-to-Speed asks ...

**Responses to last issue's question:** How many hours per day do you practice outside of school?

- 0% — Never
- 11.1% — Less than an hour
- 44.4% — 1-2 hours
- 11.1% — 3-4 hours
- 22.2% — 5 or more hours
- 11.1% — I never stop practicing

What are your career plans for after graduation?

Official

[Select](#)

Freelance

[Select](#)

CART and/or broadcast captioner

[Select](#)

Some combination of the above

[Select](#)

Something else

[Select](#)

Undecided

[Select](#)

If you received this email via a forward and would like to join our mailing list, please click [here](#). Missed previous issues of *Up-to-Speed*? Access them [here](#).

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