May 2026

Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter! Have you made your plans yet to attend the NCRA Conference & Expo this July 16-18 in Bellevue, Wash.? Don't worry, we've got you covered with highlights and tips to help you make the most of your trip.

Student Spotlight

No plans to change

Most of the students we profile in our Student Spotlight are career changers. But Lila Shepard, from Southeast Iowa, is one of the exceptions. She enrolled in the court reporting program at Des Moines Area Community College right out of high school. And she learned about the career even earlier – from an internet search when she was 15 years old.

Read more.

Do you know a student currently attending a court reporting or captioning program who should be in the spotlight? **Let us know.**

NCRA Conference & Expo

First time at an NCRA Conference & Expo? Here's what panelists shared at the last AMA

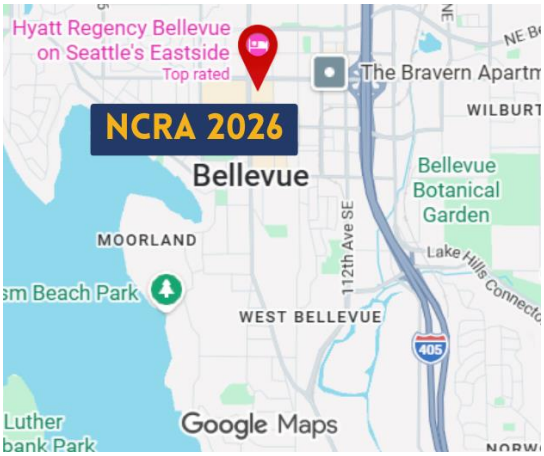
During last month's Ask Me Anything ZoomUp, the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) panelists shared information to help first-time attendees feel prepared and confident as they make plans to attend the NCRA Conference & Expo in Bellevue, Wash.

Read more.

Get ready for Bellevue: Map out your NCRA Conference experience with these daily highlights

Summer is just around the corner, and so is the 2026 NCRA Conference & Expo happening July 16-18 in Bellevue, Wash. With the Conference fast approaching, now is the time to map out your schedule to match your professional goals and personal interests. We've got the full schedule online, but read on for daily highlights.

Read more.



WCRA invites NCRA Conference & Expo attendees to see the sights in Bellevue, Wash.,

(before, during, and after the annual gathering)

The Washington Court Reporters Association (WCRA) is excited to welcome attendees of the 2026 NCRA Conference & Expo to the fair "City in the Park" of Bellevue, Wash. Special thanks to the WCRA Board of Directors for their recommendations on what to see and what to do.

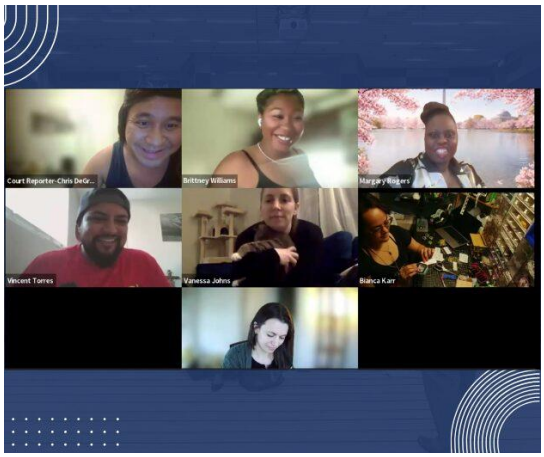
Read more.

Student Success

Get ready for summer with the next Court Reporters Craft

As the summer season approaches, make sure you're ready with a plan for maximizing work and fun with the Court Reporters Craft Zoom event. The next session is happening Friday, May 29 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Read more.



Keep it simple, silly: Stop chasing perfect practice and embrace "good enough" practice instead

By Liane Hatch

It's endlessly frustrating that there's no completely replicable, clinically proven practice method that will get you out of school in 18 months or less. And yet, I'm also of the belief that as long as you're practicing (mostly) consistently with dedicated care and attention and focus, you'll probably get there. I couldn't tell you when, but I know that practicing at all is more important than practicing perfectly.

Read more.

The unofficial guide to using Pell Grants for court reporting school

(*What you need to know before July 2026*)

By Dr. Geanell Adams

For years, court reporting students have had to get creative when it comes to paying for school. Why? Because many court reporting and captioning programs – especially shorter, skills-based pathways – didn't always fit neatly into federal financial aid rules. If it wasn't long enough, structured a certain way, or degree-based, Pell Grants were often off the table. That's finally starting to change.

Read more.

Student Scholarships

AHRE Shine Student Scholarship now open

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) application period for the Allison Hall Reporting Education (AHRE) Shine Student Scholarship opened last week. Four $1,000 scholarships are available to support students advancing in their court reporting and captioning education.

Read more.

Launch your career: Apply for the NCRF Career Launcher Scholarship

Ready to bridge the gap between graduation and your first deposition? The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) is offering the quarterly Career Launcher Student Scholarship to help dedicated steno students get ahead. The next deadline to apply is June 12.

Read more.

Two students named recipients of 2026 NCRF Gina Battaglia Memorial Student Intern Scholarship

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) proudly announces the recipients of the 2026 Gina Battaglia Memorial Student Intern Scholarship: Wendy Lee and Katrina Newman.

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 opportunities.

TELL US how we're doing. NCRA welcomes your feedback.

Testing Center

Written Knowledge Tests | Registration opens June 1 for testing in July.

Online Skills Tests | Registration opens June 1 for testing in July.

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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