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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Local Court Reporting Student Awarded Scholarship
Nicole Swanson, from Oyster Bay, N.Y., awarded a \$750 scholarship

RESTON, Va., July 6, 2022 — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has announced that Nicole Swanson, from Oyster Bay, N.Y., a student at Plaza College in Queens, N.Y., has been awarded a \$250 scholarship by the Association’s Council on Approved Student Education (CASE).

Swanson, who is currently writing at 160 words per minute, anticipates graduating in the spring of 2023. She said she is interested in working both as an official and a freelance court reporter. She plans to use the scholarship money to purchase the study materials needed for NCRA’s Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification exam so she can take the test once she finishes school.

“I majored in English and minored in legal studies, gaining my Paralegal Certificate from ABA Accredited Molloy College. I worked as a paralegal for three years with a law firm in Farmingdale, N.Y., while earning my degree. It was at the law firm where I came across court reporter’s invoices and transcripts, and I decided that it was the career for me. I graduated from Molloy in December of 2019 and started the court reporting program at Plaza College in January 2020,” she said.

She added that she would tell others interested in the profession that there are plenty of job opportunities with freelancing and captioning, and you have the option to create your own schedule.

“And of course, I would mention the high earning potential. I think it is also important to explain that while court reporting can be challenging to learn and master, you will eventually finish school and you will get out there and start working at your own pace and no one else’s. This was a lesson I had to learn as a full-time worker and night student. Another perk is being a key member of the courtroom team during exciting testimony or captioning a live sports event. The possibilities are endless, and this career can really take you anywhere,” Swanson said.



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NCRA's CASE awards five scholarships annually in the amounts of \$1,500, \$1,000, \$750, \$500, and \$250. The winners are chosen based on a weighted combination of speed, GPA, recommendations, and a written essay.

Notification that applications are being accepted for the [CASE student scholarships](#) is sent each February to all [NCRA-approved court reporting programs](#). For more information on the [CASE Student Scholarship](#), please contact the Education Department at schools@ncra.org.

Court reporters and captioners rely on the latest in technology to use stenographic machines to capture the spoken word and translate it into written text in real time. These professionals work both in and out of the courtroom recording legal cases and depositions, providing live captioning of events, and assisting members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities with gaining access to information, entertainment, educational opportunities, and more.

If you're looking for a career that is on the cutting edge of technology and offers the opportunity to work at home or abroad, and if you like to write, enjoy helping others, and are fast with your fingers, then the fields of court reporting and captioning are careers you can explore at NCRA/discoversteno.org.

[NCRA's A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand](#) program, a free online six-to-eight-week introductory course, lets participants see if a career in court reporting or captioning would be for them. The program is an introductory course in stenographic theory and provides participants with the opportunity to learn the basics of writing on a steno machine. There is no charge to take the course, but participants are required to have access to a steno machine or an iPad they can use to download the [iStenoPad app](#).

To arrange an interview with a working court reporter, captioner, legal videographer, or a current court reporting student, or to learn more about the lucrative and flexible court reporting or captioning professions and the many job opportunities currently available, contact pr@ncra.org.

[About NCRA](#)

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) has been internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 13,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator, and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership.

Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting



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field is expected to be one of the fastest areas of projected employment growth across all occupations. According to 247/WallSt.com, the court reporting profession ranks sixth out of 25 careers with the lowest unemployment rate, just 0.7 percent. Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at [NCRA DiscoverSteno.org](http://NCRA.DiscoverSteno.org).