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Joanne McKenzie, an educator from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, earns 2026 NCRA CASE Award of Excellence

RESTON, Va., June 18, 2026 — NCRA, the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, announced that Joanne McKenzie, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI, a court reporting instructor and program chair at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, was named 2026 Educator of the Year. The announcement was made at the [2026 NCRA Conference & Expo](#) held July 16-18 in Bellevue, Wash.

NCRA’s CASE (Council on Approved Student Education) Award of Excellence recognizes the important role student education plays in the court reporting profession and honors educators for their dedication and outstanding achievement and leadership. Recipients are nominated by an NCRA member.

McKenzie holds the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC), and Certified Reporting Instructor (CRI). She also holds the Realtime Systems Administrator certificate.

McKenzie is being honored for her more than two decades of transformative contributions to court reporting education and the profession at large. A dedicated and innovative educator, she is widely recognized for her student-centered teaching, compassionate mentorship, and unwavering commitment to excellence.



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Throughout her career, McKenzie has been recognized as a mentor, instructor, and leader who believes deeply in the potential of every student. Her teaching is grounded in research-based principles of skill acquisition and adult learning, and she is known for creating intentional, supportive learning environments where students develop both technical competence and professional confidence. Many students credit McKenzie not only with their success in the program, but with their long-term resilience and growth as professionals.

McKenzie has also developed numerous resources that directly benefit students including a revised theory textbook with a full set of supporting materials such as videos, practice audio, handouts and assessments.

In addition to her work in the classroom, McKenzie has served on a number of NCRA programs and committees including the NCRA [A to Z[®] Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand](#) program and the CART and Captioning Committee. She is also a past Chief Examiner for onsite certification testing and is credited with coordinating student participation in the pilot phase of the [NCRF Career Launcher](#) series. She is also a contributor to NCRA's membership publication, the *Journal of Court Reporting*.

McKenzie is also a past president of the Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association, where she has served on a number of the organization's committees and been involved in conferences and certification initiatives. She continues to contribute to the profession as a freelance reporter and CART captioner and as a certified trainer for Case CATalyst and broadcast captioning.

"Many people teach well. Few transform the way others teach, and Joanne is unquestionably one of them," wrote NCRA member Janice Plomp, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CRI, in a letter of recommendation for the award on McKenzie's behalf.

"Joanne brings extensive real-world experience to her teaching, including international reporting work. She embraces any opportunity to learn, whether that is attaining a professional certification, attending conferences, or simply listening to her students and her colleagues. She is truly an example to students and professionals alike of dedication and the ideals of lifelong learning," added Plomp, a court reporting instructor at NAIT and a long-time contemporary of McKenzie.

The court reporting and captioning professions offer viable career choices that do not require a four-year college degree and yet offer good salaries, flexible schedules, and interesting venues. There is currently an increasing demand for more reporters and captioners to meet the growing number of employment opportunities available nationwide and abroad. 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



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members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities with gaining access to information, entertainment, educational opportunities, and more.

To arrange an interview with a working court reporter or captioner, 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 125 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 10,000 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.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to be one of the fastest areas of projected employment growth across all occupations. 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).