



CONTACT:
Annemarie Roketenetz
aroketenetz@ncra.org
703-584-9014

National Court Reporters Association
12030 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 400
Reston, VA 20191-3484

Tel: 703-556-6272 • Fax: 703-391-0629
800-272-NCRA (6272) • NCRA.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Court Reporting Student Awarded Scholarship
Patricia Lopez, McAllen, Texas, awarded a \$500 scholarship

DENVER, Colo., Aug. 17, 2019 — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, today announced that Patricia Lopez, McAllen, Texas, a student at the College of Court Reporting, Valparaiso, Ind., has been awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Association’s Council on Approved Student Education (CASE). The announcement was made at NCRA’s 2019 Convention & Expo being held Aug. 15-18, in Denver, Colo.

Each year, CASE awards five scholarships to students who attend an NCRA-approved court reporting program. To be eligible to apply, students must also hold a student membership in NCRA, have attained an exemplary academic record, and passed one skills test writing at between 140 and 180 words per minute. Students are also required to submit a speed verification form, three recommendation forms, a copy of their most recent transcript, and an essay in response to a topic chosen by members of CASE. The 2019 essay question was: “Describe the importance of earning your Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification as a new professional.”

In her essay, Lopez wrote that earning her RPR will greatly improve her chances of getting a position as an official court reporter serving in one of the Hidalgo County courts.

“I was encouraged by a local judge to pursue a career as a court reporter due to the high demand in our county. In recent weeks, the dire need for court reporters in Hidalgo County has been on the news South Texas. Two weeks ago, the Board of Judges voted to ask the county commissioners to increase the pay for official court reporters in Hidalgo County. In the recent months, several of the official court reporters have taken positions in Cameron County due to the pay rate being significantly higher. This has left Hidalgo with many available positions for official reporters,” Lopez wrote.

“Now that the salary increase has made headlines, I have been receiving many calls from co-workers, friends, and even strangers inquiring about my classes and the school I am attending. I have received phone calls from courtroom personnel inquiring how I am doing in school and asking me if I am almost done. These events lead me to believe that more court reporters will be traveling to Hidalgo in search of one of these available positions. I believe that earning my RPR certification will add to my resume and increase my chances of earning one of the official court reporter positions,” she noted.



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Faculty members who supported Lopez’s scholarship application described her as being determined, hardworking, dedicated, enthusiastic, diligent, and trustworthy.

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 realtime. 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.

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. Be sure to visit [NCRA’s Press Center](#) for information as well.

Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that does not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at [DiscoverSteno.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 14,000 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, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to grow by 14 percent through the year 2020.