

# THE GUARDIAN

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## WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY CCR EXPERIENCE

BY ROBIN DAVIS

My time with CCR wasn't what I thought it would be. I thought I was going to gain an education and begin the career I've dreamed about since I was in high school. There was no way of knowing what I got in return was far greater than a piece of paper to frame and hang on my wall.

I've made two other attempts to complete my court reporting degree, but life got in the way. Both times I was forced to withdraw from school. So when I called Nicky Rodriguez about CCR, I had made up my mind this was it. I was well into my 40s and it was "Graduate or Bust." I had spent much time in prayer about this decision, and I KNEW this was the direction the Lord wanted me to walk. With sheer grit and determination, I was going to finish this thing!

I have been pretty beat up by life. I won't bore you with the details; they don't matter anyway. But along the way, I learned to protect myself by keeping people at a distance. I'd only let a handful of people in my world. I could be there for other people, but I wouldn't let people be there for me. I grew very independent, AND I'm a perfectionist. I'm very hard on myself when I don't meet my expectations.

I don't have to tell you. Preparing to be a court reporter is probably one of the most

difficult things I've attempted to accomplish, and only someone who has tried to do it understands what we face. While I was working my way through school, I went through a painful divorce. My personal life had imploded. I wanted to put school on hold while I worked this out. But I had made a decision, "Graduate or Bust!" I was going to finish this thing or else!

It wasn't long after my divorce that I got the call that my cousin and her husband were killed by a drunk driver. JoAnn wasn't just a cousin. She was more like a sister. We grew up together. She was the strength of our entire family. She was loved by EVERYONE who knew her. The family, co-workers, friends, even the whole community was devastated by this loss. I can't even begin to tell you how hard this hit us.

I don't mind telling you. This absolutely broke me. I called Nicky and Cheryl Hoover and talked with them. I was considering stepping back from school while I work through this loss. They gave me much to think about. After much prayer, I decided I couldn't walk away from school. I had committed to this, and I'm finishing it! I didn't know how but I was going to graduate.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Age wrinkles the  
body. Quitting  
wrinkles the soul."*  
-Douglas MacArthur

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## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### Carolyn Collins

Carolyn transferred to CCR in February of 2014 and deserves a nod of appreciation for all the hard work she has put in during her time here! Carolyn's instructors have been very impressed! Keep up the great work, Carolyn!

### Amy Krueger

Amy is a transfer student here and has been a consistent, hard worker ever since! Her instructors say she is very motivated and always on top of her assignments! We're rooting for you, Amy!

### Kristine Rebar

Kristine just completed her first semester here at CCR, and her instructors say she is "one to watch!" Instructors say her attendance is top notch! Welcome to CCR, Kristine! We can't wait to see you achieve your goals!



After JoAnn's death, I was never the same. I found it difficult to work on my machine. I struggled with it for months, having far more failing evaluations than successes. Sure, I was up to exit speeds, but I was so burned out that I couldn't look at my machine, let alone touch it. A decision had to be made. Something had to be done.

After speaking with Nicky about my options and Cheryl's heart-to-heart talks, I made a decision to switch to voice captioning. I desperately needed to move in a positive direction. I needed to graduate and start working on a career, even if it wasn't the career I had always dreamed of having. I always had the option of testing at exit speeds later.

While I had peace in my spirit that this was the right decision, I grieved it. I felt like I had failed. I washed out. I wasn't good enough, didn't have what it takes to make it. Like I had learned so many times before, I chose to not dwell on this. Instead, I focused on the new direction I was going. I enlisted people that I trusted to pray for me while I finished this up. I leaned hard on God, focused on His promises in the Bible. And I poured what little strength I had left into school.

It didn't take long. I found myself enjoying school again. I was having success after success with this new skill I was learning. I was gaining the confidence I had lost along the way. And then something unexpected happened. I woke up and realized that being a captioner WAS what I wanted to do. It wasn't just a stepping stone until I could get back on my machine and become a court reporter. I liked the idea of working from home! I had options that I didn't know existed. Will I hop back on my machine again? Perhaps. Only the Lord truly knows.

I realized that the Bible is true when it says in Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart plans his

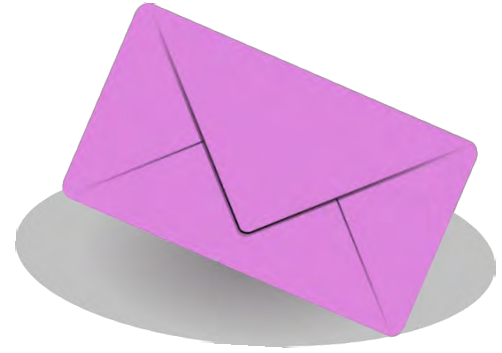
way, but the LORD directs his steps." I got the news yesterday that I've been hired by Caption Colorado. They are flying me out to Colorado in a few weeks for my training. I'm closing one chapter of life by finishing up school and on the verge of beginning what I hope will be a long and happy career. And I couldn't be happier!

What have I learned from this experience? I had been blessed with wonderful instructors that not only taught me well, but were a constant source of encouragement. I learned that striving for excellence is a good thing, but in the end, I'm not perfect. I don't have to be. I learned that I don't have to walk this journey alone. God was my source of strength, but He also brought beautiful people to come along beside me to speak life into me and to pray for me. I learned that there are people in life who are a constant source of discouragement, who want nothing better than to drag you down. It's okay to create some distance from such people. I learned that failures aren't the end of the world; they are part of the process. I learned that sometimes God has to break us so that He can form us into the vessel He wants us to be. The Bible tells us that our success won't come by might and power, but by His Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6) While the process isn't pleasant, the end results are hard to deny. I'm so thankful for every bit of it!

**Word tripper By: Barbara McNichol**

*Word Tripper for May 21, 2015*

**Envelop, envelope** – “Envelop,” a transitive verb, means to completely cover, enclose, or surround someone or something. “Envelope,” a noun, a flat container that covers a letter or other object, often for mailing or delivery. It also refers to a set of performance or conventionally accepted limits.



“Let me *envelop* you in the warm, fuzzy *envelope* of my love.” – Gary Michael

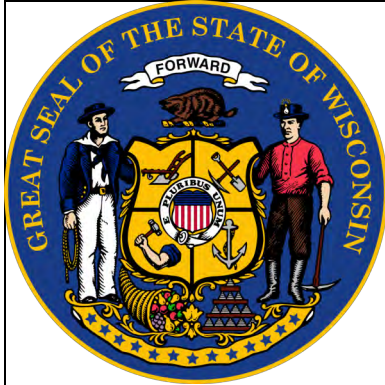
“She pushed the *envelope* of her endurance by running an extra mile.”

**A P R I L E V A L U A T I O N S P A S S E D**

*These students have all passed one or more SAP evaluations during the month of April.*

<b><u>18 SAPs</u></b>	Sherrona Williams	Robin Willey	Abby Crouse	Berarducci
Jessica Frizzell	Taisha Herr	Shivone Latortue	Alisa Church	Rebecca Wasser
<b><u>13 SAPs</u></b>	<b><u>4 SAPs</u></b>	Stephanie McGinnis	Amy Krueger	Rob Leifer
Christine VanDam	Angela Viray	Taifa Stephenson	Ashley Kramer	Ronald Pacana
<b><u>11 SAPs</u></b>	James McAllister	<b><u>2 SAPs</u></b>	Brandi Smith	Shari Conrad
Victoria Huntley	Kelsey Palmer	Amanda Olivares	Camille	Stacey Haines
<b><u>9 SAPs</u></b>	Kristine Edland	Amy Powers	Montgomery	Timothea Brewer
Erin Claybrook	Suleika Olivo	Brett Schatzle	Claire Baldi	Tyler Adkins
<b><u>7 SAPs</u></b>	Tracie Blocker	Gaylynn Smith	Daniella Savidge	Yolanda Pena
Ashleigh Huston	<b><u>3 SAPs</u></b>	Haley Both	Elise Townes	
Christil McAllister	Brionca Tate	Jessica Rykhus	Holly Goodwin	
Kimberly Murphy	Cassidy Johnson	Justina Foster	Joan Yeatts	
<b><u>6 SAPs</u></b>	Christine Angel	Kathleen Stempeck	Jodi McCall	
Ashley Guillermo	Holly Harris	Leon Bucsit	Katelyn Berch	
Ashley Wilson	Holly McKay	Lucetta Robertson	Kathleen Steadman	
Heidi Masters	Jamie Dorgan	Paulina Alanis	Kayde Reiken	
Jessica Vanatta	John Boutsis	Rachel Groves	Kelly Garland	
Monica Robinson	Josey loney	Sarah Hamilton	Kirstine Mowery	
<b><u>5 SAPs</u></b>	Katie Jaraczewski	Sindee Baum	Lisa Major	
Denise Chase Kurziel	Kelly Custard	Summer Vaughan	Marion VanHorn	
Jessica Wills	Kimberly Wilkerson	Tami Taylor	Melanie Segalla	
Joelle Maxfield	Kirstie Anderson	Valerie Melkus	Melissa Claborn	
Kristin Gertz	Kristen Stegeman	Veronica Stewart	Michelle Dziubla	
Maria Raichle	Megan Reeves	<b><u>1 SAPs</u></b>	Nicole Simchak	
			Priscilla	

## JOB OPENINGS



**Job Location:**  
Madison, Wisconsin

**Working Title:**  
Staff Classroom CART  
Provider

**Degree and area of specialization:**  
A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited postsecondary institution

in addition to court reporting or broadcast captioning training having passed three 180 literary takes required. Associate's degree from an accredited court reporting or broadcast captioning program combined with relevant certifications and sufficient years of experience, may be considered in lieu of a Bachelor's Degree for a highly qualified candidate.

**License/Certification:**

Current Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), Certified CART Provider (CCP), Certified Broadcast Captioner (CBC), Registered Merit Reporter (RMR), and Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR) certifications strongly preferred; competency to receive certification(s) within a reasonable timeline required.

**Minimum number of years and type of relevant work experience:**

Minimum 1-2 years captioning, preferably in a post secondary setting.

**Necessary qualifications:**

- Able to write realtime at an average minimum speed of 180+ WPM and 95%+ accuracy rate across a variety of subject areas.
- Able to meet captioning technical standards in a variety of acoustical environments (e.g., lecture, discussion, labs, etc.) and with one or more speakers.
- Able to accept scheduling assignments that vary both in content and time of day from semester to semester.
- Able to independently transport equipment and self to meet the captioning assignment schedule while traveling on a large, congested campus with varied terrain and weather conditions.
- Able to carry a maximum of 30 pounds of captioning equipment on a daily basis to meet the captioning assignment schedule.
- Able to work independently.
- Excellent grammar skills.
- Attention to detail.
- Effective time management to meet strict deadlines.
- Working knowledge of disability concerns, accessibility laws, and the value of disability within a diversity context.

**Full Time Salary Rate:**

Minimum \$45,000 Maximum \$54,000 Annual (12 Months) Depending on qualifications

**Job Location:**

Sturgis, South Dakota

**Category:**

Unified Judicial System

**Employment type:**

Permanent Employee

**Salary:**

\$21.11 - \$22.17 per hour, depending on experience

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Per South Dakota State statute, additional compensation is given per page for transcripts, \$3.00/original and \$.40/copy. Depending on the location transcript work can be moderate to extensive. Court reporters may be allowed to freelance and perform outside depositions work that does not involve the recording and/or transcribing of official judicial system court proceedings outside of normal office hours and for additional compensation as court calendars permit.

5% increase in salary after successful completion of CRR (Certified Real-time Reporter) certification.

Graduation from high school and an NCRA accredited Shorthand Reporting School. Experience as a shorthand reporter recording and transcribing verbatim proceedings of judicial or quasi-judicial hearings, conferences and meetings is preferred. This position is located in western South Dakota. Premium outdoor recreational opportunities abound in this area, including hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities in the Black Hills area.

Preference will be given to candidates who possess a RPR (Registered Professional Reporter) certification.

*Successful completion of a criminal background investigation is required for employment.*

**Knowledge, skills, and abilities:**

Knowledge of:

- Legal terminology, spelling and punctuation; modern office practices and procedures; court rules and regulations.

Ability to:

- Interpret and follow oral and written instructions; design and maintain simple clerical records and forms; accurately take dictation at 225 words per minute; type and produce a satisfactory volume of material; record dictation.



## NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Katie Jaraczewski

### What/who made you want to transfer to CCR?

I realized I needed a change from my current school when I wasn't making progress. I was stuck for over a year in the same speed and it just got to the point where I just needed more hands-on experience. I was just not happy at the point I was with the same routine. It was either change schools or change careers.

### In what ways does College of Court Reporting differ from your previous school?

CCR is much more involved in the student's schooling. They go through your tests with you and give you advice on your writing by evaluating it. CCR implements drills, arb review, and finger spelling into the daily routine of classes, which can only help the student. It is truly amazing how much an atmosphere and environment can have such an effect on someone. One of the things I like most about CCR is being in such a positive and optimistic place. The teachers are always there to support you and encourage you when I get into that disappointed funk, since they know what it's like to be in the student's shoes. The staff and other students are all so nice and supportive.

### What has your experience here been like this past semester?

My first semester at CCR was such a blessing. I truly learned to love court reporting again, and I am so excited about this career! I have improved my English and punctuation skills, made great improvements on my speed, learned and understood how to use my CAT software efficiently, and learned so many general things about court reporting from my Court Reporting Procedures class. I am very excited to see what the rest of my education at CCR will entail.

### What field of court reporting do you want to go into upon completion of the program?

When I finish and complete the program, I would like to be a freelance reporter. I live right outside of Chicago so I would love to commute and work in the city. I like the fact that my depositions would be in different places every day and that I would have a flexible sched-



COLLEGE OF COURT REPORTING

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**ANY SUGGESTIONS?**

*Your CCR newsletter is always changing. Contact Jen at [jen.lewis@ccr.edu](mailto:jen.lewis@ccr.edu) with any ideas that you may have for the next one. It is much appreciated!*



*Birthdays are in bold print! Happy birthday, CCR students and faculty!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Semester Break	1 <b>Seyr Sefcovic</b>	2	3	4 <b>Shivone Latortue</b>	5 National Do-nut Day 	6 <b>Janet Noel</b>
7	8 Classes Resume <b>Amanda Standley</b>	9	10	11 <b>Denise Chase Kurdziel</b>	12 <b>Timothea Brewer Yvette Granados</b>	13 <b>Tony Credit Sue Harrison</b>
14 Flag Day 	15 140-160 Multivoice	16 <b>Jamie Dorgan Kristin Gertz</b>	17	18 Faculty Meeting	19	20
21 Father's Day	22 <b>Kimberly Murphy Kayde Rieken</b> 180-200 Multivoice	23	24	25	26 <b>Carolyn Collins</b>	27
28 <b>Madison Pacana</b>	29 <b>Heidi Masters</b> 140-160 Multivoice	30 <b>Natalie Kijurna Jennifer Wesner</b>  <b>Summer Vaughn</b>				