

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GRADUATE STORY	2
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH	2
WORD TRIPPER	3
APRIL EVALUATIONS PASSED	3
JOB OPENINGS	4
NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT	5
JUNE CALENDAR	6



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

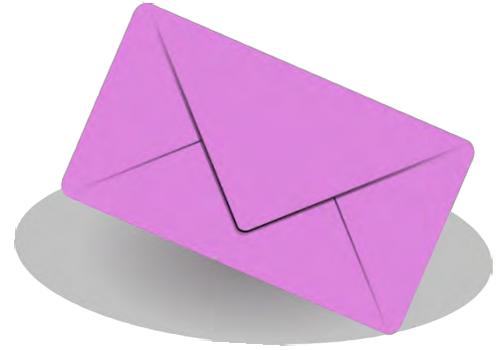
way, but the LORD directs his steps." I got the news yesterday that I've been hired by Caption Colorado. They are flying me out to Colorado in a few weeks for my training. I'm closing one chapter of life by finishing up school and on the verge of beginning what I hope will be a long and happy career. 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

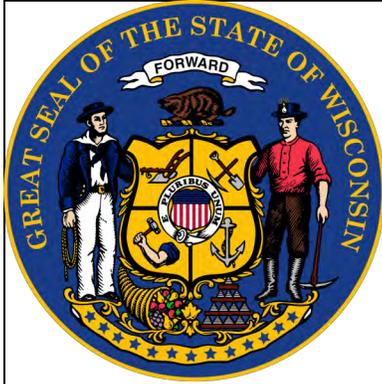
“She pushed the *envelope* of her endurance by running an extra mile.”

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.

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

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WWW.CCR.EDU



ANY SUGGESTIONS?

Your CCR newsletter is always changing. Contact Jen at 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 Seyr Sefcovic	2	3	4 Shivone Latortue	5 National Do-nut Day 	6 Janet Noel
7	8 Classes Resume Amanda Standley	9	10	11 Denise Chase Kurdziel	12 Timothea Brewer Yvette Granados	13 Tony Credit Sue Harrison
14 Flag Day 	15 140-160 Multivoice	16 Jamie Dorgan Kristin Gertz	17	18 Faculty Meeting	19	20
21 Father's Day	22 Kimberly Murphy Kayde Rieken 180-200 Multivoice	23	24	25	26 Carolyn Collins	27
28 Madison Pacana	29 Heidi Masters 140-160 Multivoice	30 Natalie Kijurna Jennifer Wesner Summer Vaughn				