

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Project Steno Welcomes Midstate College as Partner Program

Project Steno has added the Judicial Reporting program at Midstate College (Peoria, IL) to its roster of partner programs. The program, overseen by Judicial Reporting Coordinator Kathryn Dittmeier, CRI, requires both academic classes and a performance-based outcome to qualify for graduation.

Project Steno promotes the stenographic court reporting/captioning profession through social media and community outreach, with the goal of building a robust pipeline of students into school and graduating them in two years.

“Midstate College is pleased to partner with Project Steno in this grassroots effort to address the shortage of reporters in so many areas of the country,” says Dittmeier. “Project Steno is doing an impressive job of increasing the visibility of the profession in new and innovative ways. Their tuition assistance program not only makes school more affordable for students, but also puts the support of the reporting community squarely behind each student letting them know that we believe in the viability of steno careers today and in the future.”

Programs which achieve Partner Program status have agreed to performance metrics set forth by Project Steno, the purpose of which is to graduate students 24 months after enrollment. To achieve that goal, a Partner Program must:

- Adhere to a curriculum designed to graduate students in two years;
- Incorporate a speed-building and online practice regimen that makes use of Realtime Coach;
- Permit regular monitoring of Project Steno students by means of built-in Realtime Coach analytics; and
- Confirm student progress to Project Steno on a regular basis, to assure that students are achieving performance milestones and not falling behind.

“Our goal is straightforward,” says Project Steno President Jim DeCrescenzo. “We want to repopulate the dwindling ranks of stenographic reporters and captioners in our field. To do that, we need to get motivated students into school and graduate them in two years. The Midstate College Judicial Reporting program shares our goals.”

Project Steno offers tuition assistance (not a scholarship) to students who attend a Partner Program, with funds being paid directly to the student’s school, not the student, on an ongoing basis. To be eligible for tuition assistance, prospective students first must complete Project Steno’s Basic Training course or NCRA’s A to Z Program, available online or locally throughout the United States. These introduction-to-steno programs are designed specifically to be a screening mechanism to identify

students most likely to succeed. Candidates who complete them and choose to enroll in court reporting school are the students most likely to succeed.

About Project Steno

Founded in 2017, Project Steno is an independent, non-affiliated organization that relies entirely on financial support from the court reporting community. Its goals are to:

- Promote the stenographic reporting profession and recruit promising students;
- Partner with stenographic reporting schools and programs to graduate students in two years;
- Defray education costs by awarding tuition assistance to qualifying students in schools and programs across the country.

Project Steno holds 501(c)3 status as a charitable organization. It operates entirely on a not-for-profit basis. In January 2018 Project Steno launched its program of tuition assistance and placed its first students in court reporting school. With the manifest enthusiasm of court reporters everywhere, Project Steno will continue to raise funds to promote widespread awareness of our unique profession and create a robust pipeline of students into court reporting schools and graduates into the field. Learn more at <http://ProjectSteno.org>.

We invite stenographic reporting schools and programs to apply to our Partner Program at <http://ProjectSteno.org/court-reporting-schools/>.

*Project Steno is the trade name of Project to Advance Stenographic Reporting, Inc. Project Steno's purpose is to provide tuition assistance to select students who wish to learn stenographic reporting. Not all applicants will be received into the Project Steno tuition assistance program.