



Project Steno
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We're Project Steno

Project Steno completed its first full year in 2018, and we'd like to tell you about our success. There's progress on all fronts. Our mission is to (1) create awareness of the profession, court reporting and captioning, and tout its potential to young men and women as a viable career option; (2) vet prospective students and create a pipeline of motivated students into school; (3) provide tuition assistance and support of approximately \$5,000 over two years (it's not a scholarship) to students we select who meet our criteria and enroll in one of our partner programs (a steno school), with the goal of graduating them in 24 months.

It's a lot to do and it's vital that we do it -- because nobody else is. To be clear about who we are, Project Steno is a private 501(c)(3) charitable organization, which means your contributions are tax deductible. We are not affiliated in any way with NCRA, or NCRF, or NCRA's A to Z Program, or NCRA's website Discover Steno. We rely on NCRA's A to Z program as a vetting tool to identify candidates most likely to succeed. We are an all-volunteer organization, founded by five veteran court reporters. (See our website, www.projectsteno.org, for details about our founders, our Advisory Board, our program, list of donors, promotional videos.)

Here's the basics: After one year, we have raised almost \$300,000 in cash donations and pledges (\$171,000 and \$120,000, respectively). We enrolled 38 students during 2018, meaning we have encumbered \$5,000 for each enrollee. Thus, \$190,000 is earmarked for those students. We are spending only 17% of funds received on advertising, recruitment, fundraising, admin expenses, and 83% on students. That is sterling performance for any charitable organization!

Project Steno has fielded over 400 inquiries generated by our website, communicated at length with well over a hundred of that number, and extensively interviewed those who formally applied, to arrive at our 38 enrollees. We believe we have enrolled only those most likely to succeed, and so far, our results prove that out. As of late January 2019, only three have dropped out of school. That's an unheard-of retention rate! We will certainly lose more who will not complete, but we anticipate a 50% graduation rate. Fabulous! Compare that to the typical (depressing) graduation rate of about 5%.

There's a shortage of steno reporters. If we are to survive as a profession, we must get students into school *and* aim to graduate them within two years. That's our mission. And we are succeeding! Our funds on hand will allow us to enroll about 20 more students. More money means more success, so we respectfully ask you to dig deep and contribute to Project Steno.

The success of our efforts benefits all of us. We *can* create the future we want! Our program is working -- and with your support, we *will* turn the tide! Together.