

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Project Steno Welcomes Pearl River Community College as Partner Program

Project Steno has added another court reporting program to its roster of partner programs. Pearl River Community College, located across several campuses in Mississippi, is the 23rd court reporting and captioning program to join Project Steno in its efforts to raise awareness of the profession. This new program is overseen by James Collum Ph.D., Dean of Career and Technical Education, and Jana Causey, Vice President of several programs, including court reporting. The program's instructors are court reporters Rosie Sanchez and Twila Jordan-Hoover, CCR, RPR, both of Mississippi.

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.

"Pearl River Community College chose to be a partner program of Project Steno because we wanted to give our students the access to important resources and information that Project Steno provides in this field," says Causey. Collum concurs, "It is important for us to partner with Project Steno as we believe the partnership and the incentives offered will help ensure the success of our students."

Jim DeCrescenzo, Project Steno's president, explains: "Our goal is straightforward. 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."

Educational programs which achieve partner program status must have performance metrics in place to graduate students 24 months after enrollment. To achieve that goal, a Partner Program must:

- Provide a curriculum designed to graduate students in two years;
- Incorporate a speed-building and online practice regimen that makes use of an online learning platform such as Realtime Coach; and
- Confirm student progress to Project Steno on a regular basis to assure that students are achieving performance milestones.

Project Steno offers its Merit Awards Program to students who attend a Partner Program, register with Project Steno, respond timely to requests for data, and reach certain speed benchmarks. The 140-in-1 merit award of \$1,000 is given to stenographic students who attain 140 words per minute in one year. The 225-in-2 merit award gives \$1,000 to stenographic students who attain 225 wpm in two years.

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;
- Create incentives for students to reach speed milestones through the Merit Awards Program;
- Track performance of students who graduate in two years through data collection and analysis.

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.