



**December 2015**



**Dr. Carolyn Ball**  
VRSII executive director

### **Director's Message**

2015 marks the 5-year anniversary of the VRS Interpreting Institute (VRSII). During the past 5 years, the VRSII has been able to connect with more than 600 interpreter educators and more than 100 interns who have graduated from the School-to-Work Program. The VRSII firmly believes that the programming being

offered at the VRSII is making a difference in the lives of IEP graduates and in curriculum development for interpreter educators.

During 2016, the VRSII will be making some new and exciting changes to the training programs we offer. The VRSII is going ON THE ROAD!!

In the coming year, the VRSII faculty will take the Educator Empowerment Series (EES) trainings that are usually offered in Salt Lake City to locations around the country. The VRSII will collaborate with different Interpreter Education Programs in different parts of the county and will invite educators from those geographical regions to attend the trainings.

The VRSII will do this in order to:

1. Increase collaboration with educators from smaller geographic areas

2. Visit and highlight different IEPs to increase the visibility of the programs
3. Increase educator opportunities to attend local training
4. Learn more about the needs of IEPs and their faculties
5. Provide more benefits from VRSII programs to educators
6. Potentially meet with student groups to introduce the School-to-Work Program

The VRSII looks forward to seeing you on the road! Visit the VRSII website at the end of December to view information about courses and registration.

**VRS Interpreting Institute**  
Empowering Interpreters and Educators®



### **VRSII and University of North Florida Provide Distance-Learning Master's Degree**

#### ***Applications Now Being Accepted for 2016***

Demonstrating the advantage of business and academic partnerships, the VRSII and the University of North Florida (UNF) have teamed to offer a master's degree concentration in interpreting pedagogy. Applications are being accepted through March 31, 2016, for the summer 2016 session. This exciting opportunity offers interpreters a chance to earn a master's degree that will prepare them to teach interpreting in colleges and universities.

Educators, including Dr. Len Robertson and Dr. Sherry Shaw of UNF, guide students through the 18-month program, the majority of which is taught online. UNF is a trailblazer in distance learning for interpreters.



**Dr. Sherry Shaw**



**Dr. Len Robertson**

For two weeks during the program, students visit the VRSII campus in Salt Lake City to interface with fellow students and educators.



**Dr.s Carolyn Ball, Len Roberson and Sherry Shaw with the 2015 master's cohort.**

Jackie M., a current master's program student, says she has most enjoyed the relationships she has built with other members of the cohort and with faculty. "Being able to attend the program from a distance means that I can still work at my current job while going to school. It also offers me mobility – I can attend from wherever I am located or while between jobs." Jackie has been involved in interpreting for 5 years. She says she looks forward to applying her master's degree learning and experience to her work as an adjunct professor at Phoenix College. To learn more about the master's program, visit <http://www.vrsii.com/programs#MP>.

### **VRSII Hosts "Mock Interpreting: Providing Context" Seminar**

Nov. 6 through 8, the VRSII conducted its final 2015 Educator Empowerment Series class, "Mock Interpreting: Providing Context."



**Annette Miner**

During the three-day program, participants took part in mock interpreting experiences based on the concept of situational learning. VRSII

faculty member, Annette Miner, presented the concept of situational learning. Miner says the goal of the training was for participants to learn the theory behind providing mock interpreting experiences for their students and to give them some strategies, tools and ideas for including mock interpreting in their programs.

As part of the training, actress and director Teresa Sanderson attended the training to help educators hone their acting skills. Sanderson is the daughter-in-law of Robert G. Sanderson, a pillar of the Deaf community both nationally and in Utah. Recently, Sanderson performed in Wasatch Theater company's production of "WIT." Her one-woman play "Eric(A)," about a transgender person, won critical acclaim on Broadway.

Dr. Carolyn Ball, VRSII executive director, says the objective of the seminar was to give educators solid tools that can be used in mock interpreting situations to formalize the process by setting goals and objectives for students to achieve.

Ball says that in a mock-interpreting setting, a deaf and hearing person are brought into a group of students who have created or been given a "real life" situation – meaning situations that are commonly known to be experienced by deaf people. Props are used to enhance the situation. The interpreting students interpret for the deaf

group members with clear objectives in mind, including “real-life” ethical dilemmas that may occur in an actual interpreting situation. Some of the situations used in the training included hearing salespeople trying to sell products to deaf customers and a company retreat with both deaf and hearing employees in attendance.

During the VRSII training, educators created scripts within their study groups that were shared and could later be incorporated into curriculum. Ball says it is important for educators to invite deaf and hearing actors to join the activity and have students interpret. Teachers must establish the standard of “this is real” in these situation-based learning activities.

### Apply Now for the SVRS Excellence and Innovation in Interpreter Education Award



Sorenson Communications and the VRSII are pleased to announce an outstanding opportunity for IEPs that leverage technology in their training and curriculum – the SVRS

Excellence and Innovation in Interpreter Education Award.

This award recognizes IEPs that use creative and effective training to prepare graduates for a career in the professional interpreting field. The award includes an \$8,000 endowment to be reinvested in the IEP as well as \$2,000 in certificates for direct purchases of materials and supplies for the IEP. The winning IEP will also be given the opportunity to play host to other academic organizations in a best-practices showcase.

Obtain an application and learn more about this award by visiting [www.vrsii.com/iep](http://www.vrsii.com/iep). Watch videos about past award winners at [www.vrsii.com/](http://www.vrsii.com/)

### Time for School!

Encourage your top IEP graduates to apply for the VRSII School-to-Work (STW) Program 2016 summer session. STW is an eight-week immersion program that bridges the gap between IEP graduation and entry into the professional interpreting world.



School-to-Work Program cohort

Interns accepted into the program gain matchless experiences through the program including one-on-one mentoring, additional training, professional internships in the Deaf community, and often, are invited to live with a Deaf family during their time in the program. Past interns have described the program as “life changing.”

The 2016 STW program schedule is as follows:

Online study: May 30 - June 11

On campus: June 12 - July 23

Online study: July 24 - Aug. 19

Learn more at [www.vrsii.com/stwlearnmore](http://www.vrsii.com/stwlearnmore)



School-to-Work Program cohort