

July 2012 Issue



Director's Message

During 2012, the University of North Florida (UNF) and the VRS Interpreting Institute (VRSII) partnered to offer a master's degree in ASL/English Interpreting with an emphasis in Interpreter Education. This represents the first time a university and a

Dr. Carolyn Ball, Executive Director, VRSII

corporation in this field have collaborated on a project of this type. The pilot program consists of a combination of online and onsite classes, taught by UNF and VRSII instructors, on both UNF and VRSII campuses.

The program's online classes began in May 2012. The program's onsite classes began July 9, 2012, on the VRSII campus in Salt Lake City. Onsite classes last three weeks and conclude the pilot program.



VRSII/UNF master's program pilot cohort

The 15 class participants, who are working to become interpreter educators, are being instructed by some of the leading educators in the interpreting field. Dr. Carol Patrie kicked off the first week's onsite classes, focused on curriculum development and pedagogy. Dr. Len Roberson, of UNF, taught the second week's classes and Dr. Carolyn Ball,

VRSII Executive Director, concluded the on-site classes with on-line course development and the history of interpreter educators. During the rigorous three-week period, students were required to attend class eight hours per day. The pilot cohort has been an amazing experience for the graduate students. This program is truly history in the making.

Register Now for the VRSII Fall Symposium for Educators: Civility and Leadership in Interpreter Education

The VRSII is pleased to announce its second "Symposium for Educators: Civility and Leadership in Interpreter Education," Sept. 27-30, in Salt Lake City.

The seminar theme was inspired by the book, "Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct," by P.M. Forni. Based on the book, interpreter trainers Dr. Marty Taylor, Sharon Neumann Solow, Dr. Carol Patrie and Dr. Carolyn Ball will focus on the relationship between leadership and civility in interpreter education and the profession of interpreting.

The training will include lectures, discussions, work groups and learning activities. Participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited, so register soon. To learn more and register for the symposium, visit www.vrsii.com.



L to R: Dr. Carolyn Ball, Dr. Marty Taylor, Sharon Neumann Solow, Dr. Carol Patrie

School-to-Work Program Applications Now Accepted for January 2013 Session

Applications for the January 2013 session of the School-to-Work (STW) Program are being accepted through Sept. 14, 2012.

The STW program has received outstanding reviews from both IEP coordinators and interpreting students. Sandra Brown, IEP coordinator of The Community College of Baltimore County says, "Our students had very positive experiences at the VRSII and we are planning to have them present to the student body sometime this fall. I'll be on the lookout for future VRSII communications and share them with our faculty." The Deaf Studies coordinator from Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill, Mass. said, "Our interpreting student emailed us to say she had an amazing experience so I'm thankful to VRSII for continuing her education. Please keep letting us know of future similar opportunities as I'm sure we have other grads who'd be interested." Damita Boyd, IEP coordinator at Georgia Perimeter College said, "Once again we are honored that you have chosen a GPC graduate for the School-to-Work Program. Our students had an amazing experience in the previous cohort. I am sure that our students who are currently enrolled will, as well." These are only a few of the comments the VRSII has received from educators in response to its STW Program.

STW students have repeatedly expressed how the program has been "life changing." STW bridges the gap from IEP graduation to work readiness by providing additional classes, one-on-one mentoring and working internships in the deaf community. STW graduates leave the program with increased self confidence and added experience. The winter STW session is being offered Jan. 2 - March 29, 2013. To learn more, visit www.vrsii.com/training.



School-to-Work 2012 Winter Class

Meet the Faculty: Annette Miner



Annette Miner

of teamwork we have here. I love organizing all our ideas, plans, and materials into a curriculum that we can use to maximize development of student interpreting skills," says Miner.

Miner has served for over 10 years on the Board of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers as President, Regional Representative, and currently, as Director of Research and Publications.

She has been interpreting for 25 years and has taught interpreting for 15 years in various types of settings including Salt Lake Community College, where she coordinated the IEP. She has also worked as a mentor for working, pre-certified interpreters. "I think the support that the VRSII gives to faculty is unprecedented in our field. There are so many educators out there, working alone and unsure of what they are doing. They need more time, resources and ways to put it all together. The VRSII is able to help fill that need for educators," says Miner.

Asked what her hopes are for the future, Miner says, "I hope to see even more development of educator trainings. There is so much we can do to support educators. If we can support them, our efforts multiply, because they pass that benefit on to improving the skills of their interpreting students."

Miner has a master's degree in Psychology and an Educational Specialist degree from Western Michigan University. She holds a Certificate of Interpretation and a Certificate of Transliteration from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, National Interpreter Certification (Master Level) and Professional certification from the American Sign Language Teachers Association.